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RELIGIOUS TOLERATION.

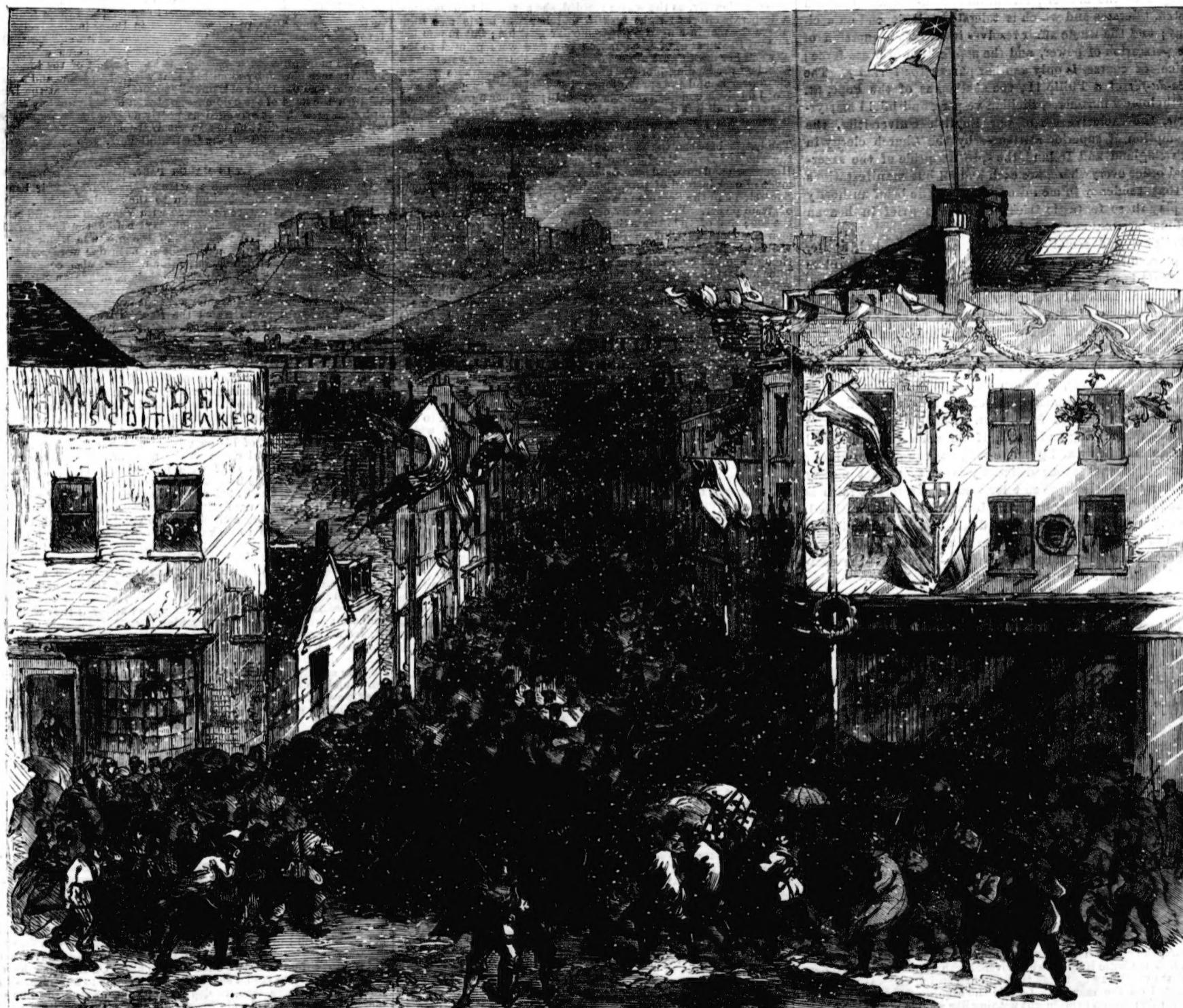
THE discussions on the Irish Church and the University Tests Bills having brought the subject of toleration in religion into considerable prominence, it will be useful to inquire how the word and the ideas associated with it came to have a place in the languages and usages of European nations, and whether or not those ideas are in consonance with the times in which we live or consistent with true notions of mental, social, and political freedom, and, above all, with the principle of religious equality now all but universally adopted in this country.

And, first, let us fix the meaning we attach to the phrase "religious toleration." Webster defines the word toleration thus:—"The act of tolerating; the allowance of that which is not wholly approved; specifically, the allowance of religious opinions and modes of worship in a State, when contrary to or different from those of the established church or belief." In that definition we have an explanation not only of the word itself but of the way in which it came to have a place in the laws and usages of nations, as well as in the

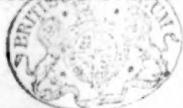
personal feeling and demeanour of individuals. It arose from the facts that established churches and beliefs have been recognised, that certain privileges have been accorded to the adherents of established churches, and certain powers intrusted to the exponents of established beliefs. Had there never been any established churches or so-called national beliefs—that is, State religions and State-commissioned clergy—there never could have been toleration in religion, on the one hand, or its corollary, though seeming opposite, religious persecution, on the other. We say that persecution is a corollary of toleration, because it is plain that if a man be in a position to tolerate his neighbour's religion, he must also have a right to suppress if he thinks fit to do so. The right to tolerate implies the right to suppress; and though at various periods in the world's history, and notably in the history of our own land, toleration has been accepted by religionists as a great and most precious boon, it has been so accepted as contradistinguished from its corollary—positive persecution, with a view to obtaining perfect uniformity of belief and worship—or that milder form of the

same thing, repression, with a view to hinder the spread of diversity. But as the right and the power either to suppress or to repress diversity of religious belief have passed away, among Englishmen, at all events, the sooner, as Mr. Lowe said in the late debate, we abandon even the language of toleration the better, because its very use is an insult to others.

And, if we reflect upon it, nothing more monstrous in theory or more pernicious in practice has ever obtained among men than the notion that one man, or body of men, has the right to tolerate, much less to dictate, the religious belief of other men. Toleration, indeed! We repudiate the idea of toleration—of permission—in matters of religion altogether; and affirm the absolute and indefeasible right of every individual man to hold whatever opinions on religion, and to observe whatever forms of worship, he pleases, irrespective of all other men, so long as he does not infringe the same rights in his neighbours. Whenever men are free to think—and all men ought to be free to think—they must (and experience proves that they do) come to different conclusions on the same subjects, and even from



MARKET SQUARE, DOVER, DECORATED FOR THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.



the same premises; and as no man is now in a position to use the Mosaic formula, "Thus saith the Lord," it follows that no man has a right to talk of repressing or even of tolerating the opinions and convictions of another man. Has any man the right to talk of tolerating the physical existence and action of his fellows? has he a right to speak of permitting others to seek happiness and enjoyment in whatever way their inclinations incline, provided that way be not injurious to their neighbours or subversive of their neighbours' rights? And if no right exists in one man, or body of men, to tolerate the physical life and action of other men, what right can one man, or body of men, possess of pretending to tolerate the intellectual and devotional life and action of other men? The very notion is not only an outrage upon the intelligent, thinking creature, but an insult to the Creator who made him thinking and intelligent, and a usurpation, besides, of that Creator's highest attributes.

So much for the monstrosity of the theory that men have a right to tolerate—and therefore, if they choose to exercise it, and can do so, a right to suppress—the religious opinions of their neighbours; but the practice is not less pernicious than the theory is monstrous. Look how the thing operates, and to what absurdities it leads. Here in England the Church affects to tolerate Dissenters, though all citizens are supposed to be equal before the law: a thing which they cannot be if one section of society be in a position to tolerate—that is, to permit or to deny—free action of mind or body to other sections. In Ireland, Protestantism tolerates Catholicism, though the Catholics outnumber the Protestants by seven to one, and though Catholics and Protestants are all equally citizens of the same State and entitled to equal rights. In France, Austria, and some other countries, the tables are turned, and Catholicism, in limited degrees, tolerates Protestantism. In Spain, Protestants are only beginning to obtain a small measure of toleration, after having been denied it ever since the time of Philip II., or for upwards of 300 years. And within the walls of Rome, the stronghold of the Pope and Catholicism, there is no toleration for Protestantism at all. So that it comes to this, that what is right in one place, is wrong in another; and what affects to give toleration here, is itself glad to accept toleration there. In fact, there is no principle of right in the matter; toleration or non-toleration, which system tolerates and which is tolerated, all depend on accident; and the whole affair resolves itself into a question of the possession of power, and the application of brute force; which, of course, is only another phrase for tyranny. The *auto-da-fés* of a Philip II., the anathemas of the Pope, St. Bartholomew massacres, Sicilian vespers, Smithfield martyrdoms, the exclusiveness of our English Universities, the assumption of superior attributes by the Church clergy in both England and Ireland, the spiritual pride of the sacerdotal order everywhere, are each and all but manifestations of that tendency in men dressed in a little brief authority to play those fantastic tricks that cause grief in heaven and much wrong and suffering on earth.

Political and social intolerance, as we hinted above, have resulted from the blunder nations and rulers committed when they instituted established churches, recognised national religious beliefs, and attempted, by the action of State-commissioned priests, to secure uniformity of creed and worship. That figment of the mind ecclesiastic, that all men should believe alike in matters of religious faith, or can be made to do so by any means whatever, has been a curse to humanity since its first inception; it continues to exert its baleful influence, though in a modified form, upon us still, even in free and liberal-minded England; and, if we wish to secure real intellectual liberty and genuine religious equality for all our citizens, we must labour diligently to root out, not merely the thing symbolised when toleration in matters of faith is talked of, but the very language by which it is symbolised. We are making progress in this direction; but there is still much to do ere we can hope to see an end of the insolence of one set of men pretending to tolerate—to permit—the communion of other men's spirits with their Maker.

THE EASTER REVIEW AT DOVER.

WHATEVER may be the incidents attending any future anniversary gathering of the volunteers, the Dover review of 1869 cannot fail to rank as one of the most memorable. Persons have been so accustomed to regard, or rather to accept, Easter Monday as a day peculiarly set apart for volunteer displays, that many doubtless forgot the very early date at which the laws that regulate "movable feasts" this year brought on the principal muster of the national army of defence. In the stress laid in the War-Office circular upon the provision beforehand of waterproof coats and capes, there was a note of warning that was not lost upon the wise. Few, however, probably of those who arranged to go down to Dover, provident as they may have been in the matter of clothing or food, had any anticipation, based upon previous experience, of such weather as, in this instance, they had to encounter. Travelling in a storm of wind and snow, the late arrivals on leaving the railway stations found themselves exposed to drifts of hail so thick and violent that the object of their journey seemed hopeless of attainment. On land there was disappointment, at sea disaster; for a ship of war was beating out its life against the Admiralty Pier, and the intention to hold the review, at first abandoned, was re-asserted and carried into execution only by the determination and personal exertions of the Commander-in-Chief.

THE MUSTER—THE WEATHER.

The weather throughout the morning and afternoon of Sunday was extremely threatening. There was a cold and piercing atmosphere, the clouds had a lowering appearance, and there was some wind. The Castle Heights were covered with a thick layer of snow; so that everything indicated that a genial spring day was not to be expected on the morrow. Late in the evening there was a heavy fall of rain; but up to midnight nothing like a gale blew on the coast. Soon after seven o'clock on Monday morning special trains with

volunteers from London began to arrive by both the South-Eastern and the London, Chatham, and Dover lines. Among the first corps which came in were the 3rd London, the 37th, the 40th, and the 48th Middlesex. The 3rd Middlesex Artillery was also among the early arrivals. The men of the Hon. Artillery Company came down in the course of the morning, their guns having been brought down on Saturday. By nine o'clock bands were playing in all directions, and some fifteen or sixteen thousand volunteers were already preparing for the muster on the various points of rendezvous along the beach. But at nine o'clock the aspect of the clouds became more threatening, and in another quarter of an hour rain and sleet were falling, and the wind had risen to a hurricane. The tide, too, was then rapidly rising, and an alarm from the Admiralty Pier caused everyone to run in that direction, where a grand but sad spectacle was witnessed in the total destruction of her Majesty's ship Ferret.

WRECK OF H.M.S. FERRET.

The Ferret and the Marten, companion training-brigs, had come round from Portsmouth last Saturday to take part in the naval operations at the review. They were moored to buoys on the east side of, and not far from, the Admiralty Pier. The Ferret carried eight guns, and had a crew of seventeen men, seven or eight stewards, and eighty-six boys. She was commanded by Lieutenant Carre. Soon after midnight of Sunday the wind, which had gone round from south-east to east-north-east, began to blow with much fury. Both the training-brigs rolled heavily during the gale, and at twenty minutes past four o'clock the Ferret was driven inward with such violence that her moorings were carried away, and, escaping from the Admiralty buoy, she was borne rapidly towards the pier, the water being then very low. The Commander at once gave orders for her anchor to be let go. She, however, fell astern, and was brought up against the pier. The boys were at once called up and told to lose not an instant in preparing to get out of the ship. Many of them were in their hammocks; and some of those who had been suddenly awakened from sleep raised a cry on finding in what imminent danger all hands were placed; but, after the first surprise, all the young fellows appear to have acted with a courage worthy of their profession. The shouts of the officers and the cry of the lads were heard on board the Breeze mail-packet, which had just arrived from Calais, and the crew, on running across the pier, and finding how matters stood with the Ferret, brought down all the line and ropes they could lay hold of, and lowered them to the deck of the training-brig, which was then some 20 ft. or 25 ft. below the level of the pier. Some of the lads mounted the rigging, and from the yards got on to the pier; but the greater number of them and the men were hauled up by the crew of the Breeze. They were all taken to the Sailors' Home. For some time it had been feared that one of the eighty-six lads had perished; but, on the muster-roll being called over, all of them answered to their names. It had been hoped that with the rising tide the vessel would right herself and float; but, unfortunately, she had received serious damages when driven against the granite, and still more unfortunately the wind increased in violence with the rise of the tide, so that at the time when everyone was rushing to the pier the Ferret was fast becoming a total wreck. A dreadful sea was rushing in from the north-east, and the waves made terrific sport of the brig. She lay, or rather was spun about, on her beam ends. The waters rushed into and over her every other instant. For a second or two occasionally, as the waves receded, she appeared to be making a desperate effort to right herself, and her two masts rose high above the pier in a nearly perpendicular position; but in another instant the muzzles of her guns on one side were pointed to the sky and her masts were almost dipping into the raging waters. To stand on the landing-pier was now impossible. The waves washed clean over it, and the spray drenched the hundreds of people who stood on the second or promenade pier 10 ft. higher up. A piercing shower of hail was descending at the same time. The wind carried it across the pier laterally, and with such force that those into whose faces it was driven felt as if every hailstone were a pellet. The battle between the sea and the Ferret lay close at hand, but the whole of Dover Roads was one scene of struggle and excitement. Homeward and outward boundsteamers were being tossed about as if made of cork instead of iron, and the great turreted ships, the Royal Sovereign and the Scorpion, were only holding their own by force of steam power. The smaller craft seemed to be at the mercy of the sea; and of the Annie Sharpe, a barque which went aground near Shakespeare's Cliff on Sunday morning, only the masts were visible above water. The Ferret was still a ship up to ten o'clock, though she had over and over again been thrown with tremendous force against the pier-wall; but at about ten o'clock her mainmast smashed near the deck, and went clean overboard with an appalling crash. In a few minutes more about 20 ft. of her remaining mast were carried away, and portions of her hull were shivered to atoms against the solid granite with which it was every second coming into contact. Drifting in under the landing-stage, all that remained of her seemed to be sinking, when the remnant of the mast got fixed in a crane and extended for some distance across the pier railway, just as a passenger-train was arriving at the spot. The crane, however, gave way, and carried all that was left of the mast with it without doing damage to life or limb. This was the last struggle of the Ferret. Her guns sank to the bottom, and her hull was broken into fragments, most of which were not larger than firewood. For the next hour the waters all along the pier and the beach were covered with spars and other portions of the wreck. Perhaps no shipwreck was ever viewed by such numbers of people or under circumstances more extraordinary. Not only was the upper pier covered with men and women, but men rushed out on the lower ground near the Lord Warden Hotel in their anxiety to see and secure bits of the wreck, and were not only wetted to the skin, but sometimes washed off their legs by the waves which constantly dashed in. By this time two long trains were drawn up on the pier. Ladies and gentlemen entered them and viewed the scene from the windows of the carriages, while volunteers of various corps and in numerous varieties of uniform mounted the roofs and stood on this vantage ground to witness the scene. Not only were the windows of the Lord Warden filled with spectators, but numbers stood behind its lofty parapet, and for the time it really seemed as if all thoughts of the volunteer review had given place to the interest which the fate of the Ferret had excited in the minds of the people of Dover and the thousands of strangers then in the town. Indeed, it was believed that no more would be heard of the great volunteer field-day of 1869.

THE REVIEW DELAYED.

The long line of the Esplanade, extending from the harbour in the direction of the East Cliff, had been set apart as the halting-point and general place of assembly for the different battalions on their way from the railway stations to the heights. With praiseworthy obedience to orders, many of the regiments marched to their prescribed stations, indicated by notice-boards set up facing the houses on the Esplanade; but, on reaching the places so assigned, they found themselves exposed not only to the driving snow but to columns of spray from the waves as they broke upon the beach. To subject men long to adverse influences of this kind, in the name either of pleasure or of military training, would have been manifestly impossible. Upon the other hand, the state of matters on the hills was such that, in the opinion of competent judges, it would have been no easy matter, just then, even to stand upright against the blasts. A hasty military council was held of all the commanders of brigades who could be got together, and it was determined to submit to what then looked like necessity, and to abandon the review altogether. With the double object, however, of collecting the men for the return journey, and of taking advantage of a gleam of fine weather, if any such should present itself, it was announced that the volunteers were to re-assemble at three o'clock, and to march past the commanding officer, weather permitting. Meanwhile the men were dismissed, and left to their own resources. No sooner was the word given than regiments—red, green, and grey—resolved themselves into

their original element. Not even the Ferret went more suddenly and completely to pieces than did the solid military array of a few minutes previously. Every house of entertainment in every part of the town was thronged with applicants for food or shelter. Uniforms were to be seen in all the windows. Dover was literally in the hands of the volunteers, and the satisfaction of the inhabitants at the unlooked-for openings for business thus created was proportionate.

ARRIVAL OF THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE—OPERATIONS RESUMED.

In little more than half an hour, however, the weather, though still threatening, moderated, and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge arrived at the Lord Warden Hotel. With the Commander-in-Chief came his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, his Serene Highness Prince Teck, Lord Granville, and a mounted escort. They had ridden across from Walmer Castle, encountering the storm on their way; and the first inquiry of the Duke was as to the cause of the scene which met his eyes—volunteers not under arms or in formation, but wandering about in all directions. Explanations were offered; he was assured that the step taken had not been adopted without consideration, and apparently had met with general approval. The Duke, however, was plainly of opinion that the review ought not to be postponed, and, eliciting corroborative expressions from those whom he addressed, he issued peremptory instructions to his staff to cause the brigades to be re-formed. Doubts were not unnaturally expressed by some of the commanding officers, and even by General Lindsay himself, as to the feasibility of getting the men, so recently dismissed, together again. "Nonsense," was the Duke's reply. "Sound the assembly at once, and let the men be marched to the field." Earnestness and decision produced their usual effects; the crowd of bystanders and volunteers loudly cheered the remark, and greeted the Royal party with renewed welcomes. And while mounted officers hurried hither and thither, as well as the crowded state of the streets would permit, the Commander-in-Chief cleared the vicinity of the South-Eastern Railway terminus, almost single-handed, sending men right and left to "fall in." Anyone who has assisted at an excursion or picnic, where members of the party have strayed off in different directions and lost sight of each other, can form some notion of the difficulty of getting the volunteers together again. Moreover, though "the assembly" was sounded in front of every hotel in all the leading thoroughfares, and almost at every street corner, there were reasons—or, at least, excuses—for its not being obeyed with alacrity in all cases. Many had been wet through, or nearly so, and it calls for an effort, even on the part of strong-minded men, to struggle into damp boots or coats again at a moment's notice. Many had food or drink before them when the bugles began; some had actually left the town or made other arrangements for the day; while, of course, there was a proportion—though, happily, a small one—of men who flatly avowed that they "felt themselves very comfortable, and did not mean to stir." Among the steadiest volunteers also there were conflicting opinions; some held firmly to the "three o'clock" order given in the first instance, discouraging, as well-meant but mistaken interference, the efforts of those who were endeavouring to bring about an immediate parade. Some whose rendezvous lay in the east had to go west in the first instance to get their rifles. As soon, however, as two or three bands had been got together, and the steady tramp of a battalion en route for the heights was heard, indecision and conflicting currents came to an end, and three fourths, or possibly four fifths, of the volunteers in Dover instinctively fell into their places. Taking all the circumstances into account, the weather and consequent state of the roads, the sudden dispersion and still more unforeseen recall, it is to the credit of the force, as military men cheerfully admitted, that within two hours and a half from the time the Duke of Cambridge issued his orders at the Lord Warden the head of the column—not taken indiscriminately in the order of arrival, but arranged as nearly as possible in accordance with the original distribution in the War-Office returns—marched past the flagstaff in rear of the Castle-hill Fort, two miles and upwards away from the town.

THE MARCH PAST.

On leaving the Esplanade the troops, headed by their bands, marched past the Obelisk, and on to the castle heights. The streets on their route were decorated with Venetian flags and other draperies, but the prospect which lay before the head of the column as it gained the summit of the hill was bleak in the extreme. Dotted along the crest of a distant ridge were the pieces of siege artillery, which the traction-engines, also conspicuous against the sky-line, had dragged to their positions on Saturday. Further on lay the Lone Tree, with all the desolation that its name implies, and between and around were the lands under cultivation, for the damage done to which the farmers were guaranteed by anticipation. To the right, however, of the column, where the flagstaff was erected, a numerous company assembled to witness the march past, and further groups of spectators crested the Castle-hill Fort, which lay in the background. Notwithstanding the severity of the day and the sweeping wind to which the heights were exposed, many ladies in carriages, on horseback, or on foot were among the lookers-on. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief took up his position at the saluting-base, with his Royal Highness Prince Arthur on his right hand. Prince Teck rode past at the head of his own brigade of Surrey Artillery, and then joined the Royal circle at the flagstaff. General Sir Hope Grant and a brilliant staff were immediately in rear, and in striking contrast to the British scarlet were two Austrian uniforms. The passage of regiments before the Commander-in-Chief was sustained with as much regularity as circumstances permitted; but occasionally there were considerable intervals, and Lord Truro's artillery brigade had to make great exertions to bring up their 9-pounders in time to close the procession. The 4th, 91st, and 94th Regiments of the Line, which took part through representative companies in the day's proceedings, were loudly cheered, and their well-ordered lines stood out in relief against the looser array of the volunteers. Many of these, however, acquitted themselves most creditably, and would have done even better if they could be induced to remember that in marching past their business is to be looked at, not to look at others. As already explained, men had come together very hastily on the Esplanade, with great coats, capes, &c., in disorder; but advantage was taken of every little halt to achieve something resembling uniformity of appearance, and the corps undoubtedly were in much better form at the summit than they were at the beginning of the ascent. The 49th Middlesex (Post Office), if placed in trying circumstances by marching immediately after the regulars, enjoyed an advantage in having their great coats—which they all wore—made upon one uniform pattern. The regiment bore itself well, and was among those which obtained merited applause. The 47th Lancashire were easily recognised by their knapsacks, and as visitors from a distance, and as well-drilled volunteers, they, too, were warmly received. Oxford and Cambridge Universities together made a good strong company; but the regiment which claims a prescriptive right to recruit from the two University corps did not appear. Surely, it would be better for the Inns of Court to send even one or two companies on occasions of this kind than to sacrifice its old claims on public admiration? It was a gratifying feature of the day that there were comparatively few stragglers present on the ground. "The volunteer unattached," who has been seen on so many occasions walking about in a purposeless manner, far from his own regiment, sometimes all over the field, and sometimes soliciting permission from a corps utterly unlike his own in point of uniform to march past with them, was on this occasion happily nowhere. He probably staid behind at Dover, and did not take the trouble of climbing the hill. On the other hand, it was necessary to read a somewhat sharp lesson to an officer of a Cinque Ports Corps, who, in defiance of rule, crossed the line of march close to the flagstaff, and did not yield readily to remonstrance. The carriages conveying the new telegraph apparatus were regarded with much curiosity. Externally they are not unli

highly-finished ambulance-waggons—in charge, however, of Engineers, instead of the Military Train.

THE SHAM FIGHT.

The march past concluded shortly before four o'clock, and most persons presumed that the different corps would be taken straight back to Dover, with a view to their speedy departure by railway. The Commander-in-Chief, however, was bent apparently on adhering, as far as time permitted, to the original programme. Accordingly, as the various regiments passed the flagstaff, orders were sent them to march upon the points indicated in the plans prepared beforehand, and long lines of many-coloured uniforms spread themselves, in compliance with the Duke's orders, over what appeared to be, and doubtless were, many miles of country. Of the artillery corps present the majority were dispatched to Dover Castle. The engagement was supposed to begin, at some distance from the castle, between the rival lines of skirmishers; but it gradually drew nearer to the walls, and then the fortress took its part in the fray. To the general public this was the most attractive portion of the spectacle, for between the nondescript hue of the chalky soil and the kindred haze of the smoke from the guns the movements of the rival armies were followed with difficulty, and when, later on, the firing extended to the fleet the interest in this direction culminated. The Royal Sovereign and the Scorpion, for some time before they opened fire from their turrets, had lain broadside on to the castle, with bulwarks lowered and the muzzles of the guns showing; but it was feared that the same cause which had prevented the other vessels from venturing out of harbour to fulfil their share in the programme might hinder the large ships from coming into action. The general mind, however, was reassured when, with a roar that shook the houses in the town, the guns of the Royal Sovereign and Scorpion opened. The cannonade was briskly sustained both on land and at sea for a considerable time, and the shades of evening were falling when the final signal was given, and besiegers and besieged ended their differences amicably.

THE RETURN—CASUALTIES.

All the special trains conveying volunteers on their return to London left Dover by a quarter past eight in the evening. Mr. Egroll, Mr. Forbes, Mr. J. S. Martin, Mr. Knight, and other officers of the lines of railway were in attendance at the stations, and the trains were got off without accident.

In the course of the review and the field operations the following casualties occurred:—One of the 94th Foot fell dead on parade of heart disease; William Haghæ, of the 9th Essex, sprained his knee; James Danson, of the 2nd Surrey, sustained some (not serious) contusions of the head; and Robert Sheringham, of the 28th Kent, met with a similar accident.

At night the castle and the ships of war were illuminated with the magnesium light.

We notice with pleasure an act of gallantry performed by a young volunteer, one of "Tom Brown's Lambs," during the morning. Several volunteers were amusing themselves in foolishly rushing down a slippery slope to snatch relics of the wreck of the Ferret from the sea, when one of them, a middle-aged member of the 4th Middlesex, fell, and was sucked in by the waves. He was in imminent danger of being drowned, attempt after attempt having been unsuccessfully made to rescue him. Just as the poor fellow was sinking for the last time, Private West, of the 19th Middlesex (Working Men's College Corps), dashed down the slope into the sea, caught him round the waist, and, after being in the water for ten minutes, was pulled ashore, with his half-drowned comrade, by means of a rope. Both were by this time in an insensible state, and they were only revived, at the Sailors' Home, by the restorative measures of the Royal Humane Society being persisted in.

SOME OF THE CHURCH PAPERS, which profess to be well informed, state that the Bishops of Gloucester, Lichfield, and Peterborough are the only English prelates who dissent from the policy recommended by the rest of the Episcopal Bench of abstaining from voting on the Irish Church question in the House of Lords. The Bishop of Lincoln (Dr. Wordsworth) has not at present a seat in the House of Lords.

ROYAL ALBERT ORPHAN ASYLUM.—The annual court of governors of the above institution was held, on Tuesday, at the London Tavern.—Mr. William Morley in the chair. Mr. Walker, the secretary, read the report, which stated that her Majesty had consented to become the patron of the institution, and the Duke of Edinburgh its president. There were now 167 children in the asylum, all in the enjoyment of good health, and all receiving a good plain education, fitting them to obtain a living by useful labour. The girls are trained for servants and needlewomen, and the boys taught farming, carpentering, tailoring, and shoemaking. The average cost of each child per annum is £19. The new dining-hall, the foundation-stone of which was laid by her Majesty in 1867, is now completed, and is available for a chapel as well as a dining-hall. The financial statement showed the total income of the year to have been £5002 12s. 8d., and the expenditure £4964 18s. 6d., leaving a balance of £55 14s. 2d. The chairman said, in proof of the substantial appreciation of the usefulness and merits of the society, repeated applications were being made at the asylum for young females as servants. The report was agreed to.

PALM SUNDAY IN ROME.—The ceremonies of Palm Sunday were celebrated with great pomp at St. Peter's, the attendance being numerous. Among those present in the tribunes were remarked the Royal family of Naples, Prince William of Baden, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia; Prince Eugène and the Countess de Beauharnais; son and daughter-in-law of the Duchess; the young Prince of Parma; the heir of the principality of Monaco; the Duke and Duchess de Monti, &c. The Pope descended from his apartments at nine precisely to the chapel of La Pietà, where the pontifical cortege was organised. The Holy Father, preceded by the clergy and escorted by the Swiss and noble guard, was then carried in the *sesta gestatoria* to the altar of confession, and afterwards to the raised throne at the bottom of the Presbytery, whilst the clergy and cardinals ranged themselves on each side. There the Holy Father blessed the palm-branches, supplied, in virtue of a very ancient privilege, by the family Bresca, of San Remo. The Pope kept one for himself, and gave the others to the cardinals and members of the clergy, to the various princes and foreign ministers. Afterwards the procession was again formed, and, filing along the nave, stopped under the vestibule, where the central gates were closed; they were opened to the sound of singing and a flourish of trumpets on the Apostolic Sub-Dacon striking the door-posts with his crozier. The whole ceremony was most imposing, and is intended to represent the entry of the Saviour into Jerusalem. The Holy Father then heard mass.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.—A committee of the United Presbyterian Church have issued a statement in regard to the Scotch Education Bill. They say that they readily acknowledge that in various respects the bill is a great improvement on any similar measure previously submitted to Parliament. In particular, they have satisfaction in finding that in the constitution for new national schools, under which it aims to bring all schools, there does not appear to be anything in the provisions of the bill at variance with the principle of this Church, "that religious instruction, which is of primary moment in the education of the young, is a department which belongs exclusively to the parent and the Church, and which it is not in the province of the State to provide." After alluding to the disappointment occasioned by the Royal Commissioners' scheme, the worse feature of which they held to be produced in the present measure, the committee go on to say—"The progress of public opinion on the questions of national education, of popular representation, and of equal rights to all religious parties, the extension of the political franchise on the basis of household occupancy, at the instance of a Tory Government, and the just, wise, and bold policy of the present Government in relation to the Irish Church justified the expectation that at this time of day any scheme of national education propounded for Scotland would have been consistent with just principles and the most enlightened views—a scheme not merely comprehensive, but homogeneous; not merely providing efficient instruction for all, but doing so by means which everywhere excluded sectarian distinctions, and secured popular representation and confidence in the management of the schools—a scheme just, simple, broad, popular, of universal application. To such a scheme that now submitted presents a vast contrast. It is a huge piece of incongruity and patchwork, in which, with the introduction of a constitution based on a right principle for new schools, provision is made for the continuance of the unpopular and sectarian constitution of the present parochial school, and in like manner for that of denominational and other schools under sectarian and exclusive management, so that the two largest classes of schools which it is designed to comprehend—the old national and the adopted national—may be perpetuated, without any share in their management by the people for whose benefit they are upheld." Regarding the board of education, the committee consider two provisions to be essential: first, that the board should consist only of responsible members, so appointed or chosen as to command public confidence; second, that all meetings of the board, and of any committee invested with its power, should be public.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Soldiers on six months' furlough have been ordered to join their regiments on the expiration of their leave; but, in order to allay any apprehensions, it is stated, semi-officially, that there is nothing unusual in this proceeding; and as proof that it has no warlike significance, it is pointed out that the Minister of War has recently dismissed to their homes some 30,000 soldiers of the second class of the contingent.

Snow fell heavily in Paris during the early hours of Monday morning, and so severe was the weather that some steeplechases which were to have come off at Vincennes had to be postponed. A change took place, however, in the evening, which was mild and fine.

SPAIN.

The draught of the new Constitution, as reported upon by the Committee of the Cortes, has been laid upon the table of the House. It proposes to support the Roman Catholic Church by State funds, and to guarantee religious liberty to all other Churches.

Fifty Spaniards received the communion on Sunday morning in Madrid according to the Protestant rite. This is the first time that this ceremony has been celebrated since the time of Philip II.

ITALY.

The Italian greenbook, which has just been published, contains no fewer than sixty-nine documents, which range in date from Dec. 7, 1867, to Dec. 1, 1868, and all refer to the Roman question. Among the despatches is one dated Aug. 22, 1868, from General Menabrea to Signor Nigra, stating that, in the opinion of the Florence Cabinet, the time had come for France to put an end to her occupation of Rome, as that occupation was one of the principal causes of the hostile attitude maintained by the Papal Government towards Italy. In his reply, which is dated Sept. 7, 1868, Signor Nigra states that the Cabinet of the Tuilleries does not consider the moment opportune for withdrawing the French troops, but that the evacuation may be expected in a short time. This was seven months ago, and the *Debats* says it is to be supposed now that France will soon satisfy the exigencies of the Italian Government.

There is news of political arrests in Naples and of the distribution of revolutionary proclamations in the southern provinces. According to the Florence correspondent of the *Paris Temps*, several non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Neapolitan garrison are among the persons arrested. The report runs that a Republican conspiracy has been discovered; but upon this subject nothing certain appears to be known, and but little importance is attached to the rumour. Disturbances have also taken place at Ancona, but they are attributed to a local cause—the increase of the municipal taxes. In consequence of these disturbances, the Mayor and the Town Councillors had resigned, but the Prefect had refused to accept their resignation.

ROME.

The Liberal party in Rome declare they have positive information that Italy has joined France and Austria in a treaty of alliance, and that one of the covenants provides that "the *status quo* shall be maintained at Rome till the death of Pius IX., when Rome shall be declared the capital of Italy."

THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives being in favour of the repeal of the Tenure of Office Act, and the Senate of its modification only, it was agreed to refer the matter to a joint committee. The bill has now been finally passed by both Houses of Congress as reported back from the joint committee of conference, and is substantially the same as the one adopted by the Senate. By its provisions the absolute removal of officials by the President is still prohibited. Should the Senate reject his nomination of any public officer, the latter's predecessor is to be considered reinstated in office.

The Legislature of Massachusetts has ratified the 15th Constitutional Amendment, prohibiting the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude.

St. Patrick's Day was observed throughout the United States in a very orderly manner, but with undiminished enthusiasm. In New York immense processions passed through the leading thoroughfares, and thousands of spectators looked on. At night there was a Fenian meeting, at which General O'Neill, the president of the brotherhood, made a speech of the usual kind against England. Meetings of this character, however, are said to have been fewer than in former years. The *New York Times* states that many native Americans, as well as Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Englishmen, and Scotchmen, joined in the processions. "St. Patrick," it adds, "will very surely, in course of time, become the patron saint of America."

BOLIVIA.

An unsuccessful attempt having been made to assassinate the Bolivian President, Melgarejo, in the public street, while his Excellency was surrounded by ministers and guards, Melgarejo has made this attempt a pretext for suspending the Constitution and assuming the dictatorship.

INDIA.

The Viceroy of India and Shere Ali of Afghanistan have had an interview at Umballah. Lord Mayo welcomed the Amee in the name of the Queen, and expressed a hope that the interview would be the commencement of a new era of mutual confidence. The Amee was much gratified with the reception he met with. The presents of the Government to Shere Ali are valued at £10,000.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

At the Cape a tract of country 400 miles long, and varying in breadth from 15 to 150 miles, has been desolated by a fire unparalleled in the annals of the colony. The weather had been unusually hot and dry for the previous six weeks. On Feb. 9 the temperature throughout the colony rose to more intense heat than ever previously known. During the morning scorching hot winds blew from the north-east, and in the afternoon a fire broke out at several places in the burnt district, and wrapped millions of acres in an enormous conflagration. The cultivated lands, farm buildings, native forests and bush, farm stock and wild animals, sharing the same fate. In a few hours hundreds of pounds worth of property was destroyed, the European colonists and natives alike suffering. Several persons were also burnt to death, the casualties in the majority of cases occurring to the natives and to the wives and children of the colonists. Those saved had to take shelter in the rivers, water-dams, and wet ditches, where many of them were badly scorched. The calamity occurring just after the harvest, an unusually good one, and destroying its produce, has caused great distress in the districts of Swellendam, Riversdale, Mossel Bay, George, and Oudtshoorn, the Knyasna, Humansdorf, and Uitenhage. It is believed that the conflagration would have extended farther but for rain setting in. Meetings have been held in the colony to relieve the sufferers, and an appeal had been sent home to England.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE LIVERPOOL VELOCIPEDIC CLUB have just accomplished a journey on bicycles from Liverpool to London. They made their proper start on Thursday morning week from Chester, and arrived in London last Saturday night, feeling, it is said, none the worse for their long ride, and confident that they could have performed the journey in much less time if they had been so disposed.

THE SITUATION AT PRESTON remains unchanged. Professor Bevry has been in the town putting inquiries to the workpeople on strike, it is presumed with a view to suggesting some arrangement. The secretary of the spinners and millers issued a circular, on Tuesday, to remind the body of their resolution to oppose the reduction. The weavers' secretary has announced that next week the strike allowance will be raised.

CAPTAIN COLES'S TURRET-SHIP CAPTAIN.

THE question of the applicability of the turret system to seagoing ships of war is, we fear, almost as far from being decided as ever it was. The Monarch, which represents the Admiralty idea of such a vessel, was launched from Chatham Dockyard some months ago; and the Captain, designed by Captain Coles in conjunction with Messrs. Laird, was floated out of dock at Birkenhead last Saturday. Notwithstanding the fact that these two vessels will cost the country about three-quarters of a million sterling, there would still remain some grounds for satisfaction if their construction were likely to settle once and for ever the prolonged controversy of the turret *versus* the broadside system. But such is not likely to be the case. The principles which appear to have been embodied in the design of the Monarch render her inferior in almost every respect to a broadside vessel of equal dimensions; white, on the other hand, as we will proceed to point out, some of the most promising features of the turret system have been sacrificed in order to produce the Captain. She is a twin-screw ship, 320 ft. long, 53 ft. broad, and 23 ft. mean draught, with a tonnage of 4272 tons and a displacement of 6866 tons. Her engines are of 900 collective horse-power (nominal), but will work up to six times that amount; she is to carry 610 tons of coal; and her speed is estimated at fourteen knots. The armour-plating extends all round the ship, from a depth of 5 ft. 6 in. below the water-line up to the turret-deck, which is 8 ft. above the same. The lowest strake is 6½ in.; the remainder, for a length of 40 ft. opposite each turret, 8 in.; and on the space between the turrets, 7 in. The thick plating in wake of the turrets is gradually reduced to 4 in. and 3 in. at the stem and stern respectively. The two turrets are protected with 10-in. armour and 13-in. backing. Behind the armour on the sides of the ship comes a 12-in. teak backing, and an iron inner skin 1½ in. thick. In order that she may make better weather at sea the Captain has been fitted with a poop and forecastle, connected by a hurricane or spar deck, like many of the Atlantic steamers. From this deck, which is 24 ft. wide, and about 20 ft. above the water, the sails of the ship will be worked when she is under canvas. Her armament is to consist of six guns, each turret having two 600-pounders, and a 100-pounder being carried under the poop and under the forecastle. The position and calibre of these last two guns are, however, we understand, not yet definitely settled. The turret-guns are 11 ft. 6 in. above the water line, and their arcs of training are as follows:—In the foremost turret both guns will train forward to an angle of 23 deg., with the middle line, and aft to 25 deg.; while one gun will train forward to 16 deg., and aft to 6 deg. with the same. In the after turret both guns will train to 15 deg. forward and 25 deg. aft; and one gun to 6 deg. forward and 18 deg. aft. But it must be borne in mind that this is merely the theoretical training of the guns as shown by the drawings.

It has been stated, moreover, by Captain Symonds, in a paper read before the United Service Institution—and the statement has, we believe, never been contradicted—that, in order to obtain the fire from the after turret of 6 deg., the shot from the gun has to pass over 156 ft. of deck and between the legs of the tripod masts, a state of things which would be obviously dangerous in an action. The Captain is to carry a complement of 400 men; but she has a mess room for 600, in addition to officers; and there is also ample accommodation for an Admiral and his staff. Her contract price is £276,000 for hull and £58,500 for engines, making a total of £335,500; to this amount, however, the cost of armament, rigging, and stores has to be added. As already mentioned, the poop and forecastle are connected by a hurricane-deck; and the hatchways amidships, which are of iron, are carried up to it, forming both a support and ensuring a good system of ventilation. Doors are fitted in the iron bulkheads to give access to the main or turret deck; but in bad weather these will be closed, the hatchways in the poop, forecastle, and hurricane-deck being left open. In consequence of the small size of the ports, the guns are to be sighted from the tops of the turrets; and arrangements are made to protect the gunner's head while taking aim.

Having enumerated the principal points of interest in the vessel, we will now proceed to state why we do not consider that she can be called a thoroughly efficient seagoing turret-ship. It has been the ill fate of the turret system to be associated from the first with representations which are not substantiated by fact, but which are attributable to the undue enthusiasm of its advocates. Captain Coles's original idea of putting a gun upon a turntable and surrounding it with armour, was undoubtedly the origin of a very great invention. This idea, combined with another conception of his, of mounting a gun upon a raft, and embodied in a low armour-plated vessel like the Monitor, gives us the most striking specimen of a perfect ship of war, either for the purposes of coast defence or for attacking hostile ports in inland waters or during fine weather. It is the system of all others in which we can obtain the maximum both of offensive and defensive powers; but it does not follow that such a vessel is the best for cruising and seagoing purposes. With a free-board of 2 ft. or 3 ft., the monitor is unquestionably the steadiest form of vessel that can be devised; but when the free-board is increased to 7 ft. or 8 ft., as in the Captain, the steadiness of platform is lost, and we get a ship with the seas rolling over her and swamping her guns. If we wish to have a thoroughly efficient seagoing ship of war, it is absolutely necessary that her guns shall be high out of the water. This can be obtained, as in the Monarch, by carrying up the sides of the vessel like those of a broadside ship, and by placing the turrets on the upper deck. In such a case, we either have a comparatively weak side, or we must give the vessel additional beam and draught of water in order to obtain sufficient displacement to carry thicker armour. Both these plans are objectionable. The problem can, however, be solved in another way, by building round the base of the turrets an armour-plated breastwork, as in the Cerberus, a monitor recently built for the defence of Melbourne harbour. We then have a vessel which, owing to her low deck, possesses all the steadiness characteristic of the monitor type, and which at the same time is practically secure from foundering, owing to the openings in the deck being inclosed by the breastwork. We get, too, by this means, that all-round fire which distinguished Captain Coles's early plans, but which cannot be said to form a feature of the Captain. But, if this all-round fire is to be perfect, we must sacrifice to it the ship's masts and rigging. Is it right, then, to make the safety of a vessel entirely dependent upon her engines? This is undoubtedly a question for naval men to answer; but if they will not object to take such a ship to sea, then the twin-screws come to our aid; and these, combined with great coal-carrying power, as in the new turret-ships described by Mr. Chilvers in his speech on the Navy Estimates, will enable us to produce a monitor suitable for cruising and seagoing purposes, at least for European warfare. For by using twin-screws we can employ engines of more moderate power, and therefore less likely to break down; and if any accident should happen to one screw or shaft we should always have a reserve of power in the other sufficient to bring the ship safely to port. There can be no doubt that Captain Coles has been much fettered in his design by having to fit his ship with sails, and, in spite of the great ingenuity which he has displayed, he has, as we have seen, had to sacrifice his all-round fire, and he has also had to give his vessel a hurricane-deck, which some critics maintain is too small to admit of properly working the sails, while others declare that it is likely to be injured by the explosion of the turret-guns, and we fear that there is too much foundation for both of these objections.—*Daily News*.

THE EARL OF SHAPESBURY on Tuesday laid a memorial-stone in connection with the dwellings about to be built for the better accommodation of the working classes in the south of London. The work has been undertaken under the auspices of the Suburban Village Company, and the site selected is a portion of the Loughborough Park estate, and easy of access from four railway stations. The number of houses to be built is 650. The fine weather of Tuesday attracted a large number of persons to witness the ceremony.

THE LATE EXPLOSION IN PARIS.

We have already mentioned that on the 16th ult. a terrible explosion took place in a chemical laboratory near the Sorbonne, in Paris. *Galignani* thus describes the disaster:—

"It appears that several of the inmates of the chemical laboratory of M. Fontaine had been pouring out a new liquid called picrate of potassium, used for torpedoes. The work was nearly over when, from some unexplained cause, the explosion took place. Two human bodies hurled forward were dashed against an iron bench on the opposite side of the street, and were broken into pieces by the violence

of the shock, some of the bleeding limbs striking the fronts of the shops, whilst particles of human brains penetrated into a room on the second floor, through a window which was shattered by the detonation. The head of one of the victims had been launched into the Rue Victor Cousin, opposite the manufactory. Several persons who were passing were severely injured by the splinters of wood and broken glass. A bar of iron driven forward horizontally with the speed of an arrow perforated the front of a shop, came out on the other side, and remained fixed in the wall of a court beyond. Among those wounded a man named Jules Gaumier was struck on the head by a glass splinter and badly cut; one Roch, a bookbinder, had his

right arm fractured; M. Patapul, a pupil of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and M. Devaux, a medical student, received severe contusions. A soldier was wounded in the face, and several women received bruises. The number of persons injured may be set down at fifteen. The explosive power of the liquid is such that any ship to which it was applied would instantly be blown to pieces. During the whole of March 17 thousands of persons visited the scene of the explosion. The whole Place de la Sorbonne presents a most melancholy aspect. Not a square of glass remains in any of the houses; one of the beautiful stained-glass windows of the Sorbonne is completely destroyed, and the shop fronts of the



"WITHOUT A WORD: A HOME SCENE IN GERMANY."

houses opposite are shattered as if from the effects of a cannonade; several cartloads of charred timber, reduced to fragments, with broken jars and utensils, are piled up in the middle of the Place and in the Rue de la Sorbonne, at the corner of which the shop was situated. The premises of M. Fontaine, which were rather extensive, and occupied the ground floor of the two houses Nos. 2 and 4, are entirely gutted, nothing but the walls remaining. The upper part of the house is, however, but little damaged. A hand with a ring on one of the fingers was identified as belonging to M. Fontaine's son, and the other remains have been found in the ruins. This young man, who was an only son, had a sister, who died recently. His body was the least mutilated of the four victims, as those of the others were reduced to fragments; pieces of flesh in a state of pulp were found in the trees which line the foot pavement; others adhered to the houses opposite, or were

scattered about the square, and had to be collected with shovels; a shoe, containing three toes of a foot, was also projected to the Boulevard St. Michel. With respect to the manner in which the explosion took place, the account given by M. Fontaine declares that the products used in his trade are manufactured out of Paris, and always brought ready prepared to the warehouse. A certain quantity of picrate of potassium having to be sent to Toulon, he had given orders to have a carboy, containing five or six gallons of it, to be poured off into smaller vessels. At that moment there were in the laboratory four persons, MM. Bal, Dautremieux, Rendu, and Fontaine, jun., and shortly afterwards the explosion occurred. M. Fontaine, sen., supposes either that one of the young men had commenced smoking while the operation was going on, and that a spark had fallen into the liquid, or that the carboy had dropped from the hands of the person holding it, and

that the shock had caused ignition. The quantity of picrate of potassium was sufficient, had the accident occurred in the cellars, to have blown up the entire row of houses."

"WITHOUT A WORD."

THE title which we have given to this picture is the one conferred upon it by the artist—a picture without a word; and we are disposed to leave it there to tell its own story. It is a critical situation; a word might spoil everything. And yet—and yet there is a word that is waiting to be spoken; a word that may snap that single thread and twine it with another in a knot that may not readily be loosed. Let us hope that when such danger threatens both may remember, "Least said soonest mended."



Imperial Parliament.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House re-assembled after the Easter vacation.

THE NORWICH ELECTION.

On the motion of Sir R. P. COLLIER, it was agreed, after some opposition from Mr. C. S. Reade, to present an address to her Majesty praying for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into circumstances attending the last election at Norwich.

VALUATION OF PROPERTY (METROPOLIS) BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Mr. HENLEY said some of the propositions laid down in the bill were so serious that he felt it his duty to make a few remarks on them. The bill proposed to set up a new mode of assessment, and he believed that if it passed, it would be productive of more annoyance than the present system of assessment. He thought there should be equality and fairness in the assessment, and he contended that equality and fairness would be impossible under the Act.

Mr. LOCKE was of opinion that the House was not in a position to legislate with advantage on the subject.

Mr. GOSCHEN hoped the House would assent to the second reading, and thereby agree to the principle of the bill. The details could subsequently be adjusted.

The bill was read the second time.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved for an address to her Majesty to appoint a Commission to inquire into the report of Mr. Justice Blackburn that there was reason to believe that bribery had been extensively practised at the last general election.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

The following were the members nominated on the Select Committee:—Messrs. W. Forster, Walpole, Acland, Mowbray, Buxton, James Howard, Adderley, Melly, Walter, Parker, Gregory, Talbot, Winterbottom, Jacob Bright, B. Hope, Dillwyn, and Goldney; and Sirs J. Coleridge, Pakington, S. Northcote, and J. Hay: five to be the quorum.

Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BLACKBURN.—The official declaration of the poll gives the following numbers:—Hornby (C), 4738; Feilden (C), 4697; Potter (L), 3964; Morley (L), 3804. About seven o'clock on Monday evening some Conservatives were passing down Penny-street when stone-throwing was commenced. A policeman was shot in the arm, and other shots were fired from some windows. There was serious fighting for a few minutes, but sixty policemen came up and guarded the approaches of the street. A man named Luke Hagen was taken into custody. All was afterwards quiet.

HEREFORD.—The numbers at the close of the poll for this borough were:—Colonel Clive (L), 1056; Mr. C. W. Hoskyns (L), 1033; Sir R. Baggallay (C), 872; Major Arbuthnot (C), 825. There was great excitement and a little fighting in the streets, but no serious breach of the peace.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.—The Conservatives have secured a triumph in Dumfriesshire, the numbers at the close of the poll being:—Major Walker (C), 1117; Sir Sidney Waterlow (L), 1081.

FAMINE IN RUSSIA AND PRUSSIA.—The frontiers of Russia and Prussia, from Citzovian as far as Memel, are at present a prey to a horrible famine, the entire population, but especially the Jews, being decimated by hunger and typhus fever. In the first-named town a house is shown which was inhabited by six families, but which is now empty, all the inmates having perished. A poor woman had lost her husband and thirteen children; one still remained; then he died, like the rest. Just after he had expired the mother exclaimed—"He is happy; he has nothing to fear or to suffer like ourselves." A subscription has been opened and aid is received by M. Julien Hirsch, cashier of the house of that name, at Memel.

HORSE-CHESTNUTS AS FOOD FOR CATTLE.—Here we have a seed containing a considerable portion of starch, mucilaginous, and oily matters, together with some quantity of nitrogenous compounds, and yet its value as a food is seriously interfered with in consequence of the presence of a very active and irritant principle, known as *saponine*, and contained in many other common plants, as the *armum maculatum* of our hedgebanks, and, probably, the cowslip. Pure saponine is distinctly acrid, having a biting and burning taste; in powder it excites violent sneezing. Fortunately, the proportion of it existing in the ordinary horse-chestnut is unusually small; but in other species, belonging to the same genus as our horse-chestnut, the poisonous character of the seed is much more marked. The American horse-chestnut, the seed of the *Euclis Ohiensis* (ours is the *E. Hippocastanum*) is very poisonous; it is known commonly under the name of buckeye.—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal*.

LOUIS XVII.—We cannot expect anyone to be much surprised at hearing that Louis XVII. has again made his appearance and again expired. Every four or five years one hears some story, more or less incredible, with regard to the unhappy son of Louis XVI., and Marie Antoinette—how he escaped from the amiable Simon family and lived here, there, anywhere, in obscurity, until he confessed to some of his more intimate associates that he was really "the rightful heir" in disguise. These gentlemen of the Perkin Warbeck persuasion have usually tried to raise small sums of money on the security of their Royal birth, and the trade has not always been unprofitable. However, the latest Dauphin with whom we have now to do had two things in his favour—in the first place, he never publicly said he was the Dauphin; and, in the second, he never traded on his singular resemblance to the facial type of the Bourbons. He died a few days ago at a Trappist convent in the department of the Deux-Sèvres, where he had lived many years. The story is that when he first arrived a casket was placed in the hands of the Superior with an express injunction that it should not be opened until the death of the new monk. Rightly or wrongly, the people of the department—which borders on La Vendée—believe that the papers found have established the identity of the monk with Louis XVII., an identity long suspected already; and crowds of persons, particularly of priests, have gone to Beliefontaine to see the body, which has been embalmed. The story is extremely improbable; but it is worth notice, since it shows that the old readiness to credit such romances still lingers. Just as the Norsemen believed that their hero-king Olaf Trygvesson, when he had been worsted in battle and had plunged overboard from his galley, swam ashore, went as a pilgrim to the Holy Land, and died, an old man, in an Eastern monastery—just as the Scotch long refused to admit that James IV. was really slain at Flodden—just as the Portuguese looked forward to Don Sebastian's return years after he had fallen on an African battle-field at Alcazar, so do many Frenchmen, presumably sane on other points, persist in the theory that Louis XVII. was saved from the Temple and has been living until within the last few years.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE IRISH CHURCH SURPLUS.—One of the most curious phases of the agitation against Mr. Gladstone's disestablishment and disendowment policy during the past year has been the persistent attempt to prejudice the minds of Protestant Nonconformists, by untrue or exaggerated representations as to the favour it would show to and the advantages it would confer on the Irish Catholics. We are sorry to find an Irish Peer lending himself to these tactics, or at all events showing a culpable ignorance of the real drift of the Government measure. Mr. Gladstone proposes to apply the surplus, estimated at £7,500,000, to the following five uses:—1st. To support of infirmaries, hospitals, and lunatic asylums, in exoneration of the grand jury cess, or in lieu thereof. 2nd. The support of Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Ireland) Acts, in aid of other grants for that purpose. 3rd. The salaries of trained or skilled nurses for poor persons and women in labour. 4th. The suitable education and maintenance of the blind and of the deaf and dumb poor in separate asylums. 5th. The suitable care, training, and maintenance, in separate asylums, of poor persons of weak intellect not requiring to be kept under restraint." In a published letter Lord Oranmore and Browne states that "the last four of these institutions, so far as they exist, are chiefly carried on the denominational principle—that is to say, five sixths of the population being Roman Catholic, they are conducted by the regular clergy of the Church of Rome, friars and nuns." His Lordship makes an appeal to Dissenters on the subject. "If," he says, "the Nonconformists of Great Britain do not intend to give at least £4,000,000 to the Church of Rome, they will instruct their members to reject this application of the surplus." Let us now see how far this statement accords with the facts. In his explanatory speech on March 1 Mr. Gladstone estimated the annual value of the surplus at £311,000, and proposed that of this sum more than four fifths, or £226,000, should be devoted to the first of the above-named objects, which Lord Oranmore does not pretend is promoted on "the denominational principle." According to his Lordship's own showing, therefore, the great bulk of the surplus will be devoted to charitable purposes, in which the whole population, irrespective of religious differences, have an interest, and over the expenditure of which they can exercise control. There remains £45,000 per annum for the four other purposes; and we are curious to see how, even if the whole of this surplus should be expended on denominational institutions, the assertion can be justified that the sum of £4,000,000 is being handed over "to the Church of Rome." It is, however, by such gross misstatements that it is attempted, happily with little effect, to stir up the religious feelings of Dissenters against Mr. Gladstone's just and impartial measure.—*Nonconformist*.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1869.

STREET ACCIDENTS.

In the discussions that have recently been going on in the daily newspapers about accidents from running over, collision, and crowding, in the middle of our streets, it has been almost entirely forgotten that such matters are of much more frequent occurrence than the newspapers show. People who keep their eyes open will often see slight but sufficiently unpleasant cases in which human beings or horses are injured, but which are not made public, though they go far to emphasise the lessons to be drawn from those that are. One person has been laying the blame of the evil upon omnibus-drivers; another upon the light carts; another upon the heavy waggons; another upon the costermongers' trucks; and so on, *ad libitum*. In the suburbs light carts are a real nuisance between nine and eleven of the forenoon, and serious accidents from them are common. Again, the heavy carts and waggons are a grave inconvenience in the City. Lastly, we have been threatened with the addition of velocipedes, the use of which would assuredly lead to most serious results in crowded thoroughfares. But it is idle to think of shelving the subject by throwing the blame on one class of vehicle or another. Our traffic has immensely outgrown the discipline of our streets, and the fact constitutes one of the most urgent difficulties of the police of the capital. We have been warned of the growth of this evil over and over again. At the time when the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company's Bill was before Parliament, the late Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey was called as a witness to speak to the immense additional danger and difficulty which it was alleged the railway traffic in the streets would create. Badgered by a learned counsel, he at last lost temper; and, turning to the chairman of the Committee, said, with humane warmth, "The learned counsel may say what he pleases and keep me here all night with cross-questions, if your Lordship will sit so long, but I undertake to assure this Committee that the results of these repeated additions to the street traffic of the metropolis will be fraught with danger to life and limb." So, indeed, it has too surely proved. In Russia a driver of a carriage of any kind who so much as knocks a man down or drives against him gets a flogging for his pains, and we believe that in grave cases he is sent to Siberia after the flogging. We don't want Russian law here, nor would it prove remedial as to this particular trouble; but something must be done to make it safe to cross the streets in this huge province of a city, and the sooner the better.

JUVENILE SUICIDES.

We have heard a good deal lately about juvenile crime: boy housebreakers, boy forgers, and what not. Although there can be no reason to suppose that the British character is undergoing any deterioration, it really does appear as if, under the excitement of modern life, and in the generally heated atmosphere of our overcrowded populations, to say nothing of the influence of low literature, young people turned up more frequently than they used to do in the black books of the State. It is hazardous to generalise upon such matters; and a reference to Newgate calendars of a hundred years ago will show that juvenile crime was not at all an uncommon thing; and that, in days when hanging was the penalty for theft beyond a certain amount, juries were constantly straining the law in favour of young offenders by finding them guilty only "up to the value of tenpence"—a formula which is of very frequent recurrence. But we have no means of judging decisively whether, in proportion to the number of the population, there is now more youthful criminality than there used to be. The facts before us we cannot, indeed, help recognising; and one thing certainly does stare us in the face—a great apparent increase in the number of juvenile suicides. How many cases have we not all read of within, say, a year, in which boys and girls have hanged themselves, drowned themselves, or taken poison because they have been scolded by their parents or their masters, or because—save the mark!—they have quarrelled with their sweethearts? A girl of fifteen has just been remanded from Marlborough-street, by Mr. Tyrwhitt, for throwing herself into the Serpentine. Her mother smacked her face because she had been sweethearing with a boy of the same age as herself, and she forthwith went out and tried to drown herself; nor, upon being rescued and allowed time for reflection, did she express any regret for her folly. It is probable that this sort of thing comes of heightened excitability caused by living in an overcharged social atmosphere, with all the stimulus afforded by story-books, periodical tales, and newspapers. In every rank of

society the young, especially the adolescents, seem to have outstripped the managing skill of parents and guardians. Whatever may have to be done for ends of discipline, we should think that the numerous cases in which young people (there was a recent instance in which a child of thirteen took poison!) upon being spoken to very harshly, have killed or attempted to kill themselves, will have some influence in awakening attention to a fact that we hinted at last week—namely, that under the stimulating conditions of modern life, parents, in large numbers, are now unable to hold the reins over their children as they used to do.

THE LOUNGER.

HAVING obtained some further information on the subject of the American postal contracts, I will now give my readers shortly the true story of this transaction. On Dec. 2, 1868, Mr. Disraeli announced through the newspapers that the Government had resigned. On the 9th he attended at Windsor with his colleagues to give up the seals. Subsequently, on the same day, Mr. Gladstone and the new Ministry attended and were sworn into office. On Dec. 11 and 12 the contracts, which had been accepted by Messrs. Cunard and Inman on Oct. 7, were finally settled and signed. The subsidy was to be £105,000 for a tri-weekly service for seven years, with twelve months' notice—in short, for eight years certain. This contract was made subject to the approval of Parliament; and, that Parliament might examine the contract, it was to lie upon the table of the House of Commons for twenty-eight days. My readers will not fail to notice the dates. The old Ministry were practically out of office. They, though, still transacted business on Dec. 11 and 12; and I understand that they had a constitutional right to sign these contracts. I confess that this seems strange. I should have thought that the new Ministry got to work on the 9th, when they were sworn in, and that from that time the old Government could not constitutionally do anything. On the 10th Parliament met; on the 11th the House of Commons got to work, but the contract was not laid upon the table till the 1st or 2nd of March. On March 12 Mr. Seely moved for a Committee to inquire into these contracts. Mr. Seely and many more think we ought not to pay subsidies for carrying letters to America, especially as a Committee of the House did, in 1860, report against them in the following terms:—"Their conviction is that it is quite practicable to dispense with large subsidies in cases where ordinary traffic supports several lines of steamers, and that, in circumstances which have existed in regard to the communication between this country and North America, no such subsidies are required to secure a regular, speedy, and efficient postal service." Mr. Seely, supported by the Government, got his Committee; and on Tuesday, the 23rd, the report of said Committee was laid upon the table. It could not be considered then, because no notice had been given—because the report had not been printed and circulated amongst its members. Mr. Seely was placed in a dilemma, for that night the House adjourned for the Easter holidays, and would not meet again before April 1; whereas the twenty-eight days aforesaid would expire on March 30. There was no small excitement in the lobby that night amongst the Post-Office officials and the representatives of the Liverpool steamship owners for and against the contract. It was the night of the great division, and this question could not be considered till after that division. Mr. Seely might have told these expectants what he meant to do, and sent them away; but he made no certain sign, and the officials and contractors had wearily to pace the lobby till three o'clock in the morning, and keep their spirits up by occasional "liquorings" and other methods. Once a rumour, seemingly authentic, came to us that the holidays were to be shortened; but this I never gave credit to. At last the time came, and Mr. Seely rose and gave notice that he would call attention to the report on April 6. "Good!" said the expectants; "by that time the twenty-eight days will have expired, and all action against the contract be foreclosed." But is this so? Well, I really cannot tell. I should have thought so; but several sagacious men think otherwise. The report, which is now printed, in the 17th section declares against these subsidies generally, and recommends that the contracts be given to Messrs. Cunard and Inman be disapproved, compensation being given for services already performed this year; or (19th section) that the time should be shortened.

And now, before leaving this subject, I will notice some curious facts. The Committee consisted of seven members—Mr. Dent, of Scarborough; Mr. Hamilton, of Shrewsbury; Mr. Talbot, of Glamorganshire; Mr. Seely, of Lincoln—these four are Liberals; Mr. Greaves, of Warwick; Sir Massey Lopes, of South Devon; and Mr. Graves, of Liverpool, are Conservatives. Mr. Dent was chairman. There were eight divisions in Committee before the report could be licked into shape; and in every division the three Liberals voted on one side, and the three Conservatives on the other, and Mr. Dent, the Liberal chairman, had to give a casting vote. The Conservatives, of course, were always in favour of the contractors; the Liberals against them.—N.B. The contractors are Conservatives, and have great influence in South Lancashire and Liverpool.

The following is a list of appointments made by the late Irish Government during December last. Remember that Disraeli announced the retirement of his Government on the 2nd:—The Rev. A. W. Edwards to the Deanery of Cork, £647 9s. 5d.; Rev. L. Badham, Rector of Fenagh, £378 2s. 3d.; Marshal of High Court of Admiralty, Maurice Keatinge, £400; Clerk of the Crown at Wicklow, P. Dane, £185; Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Sligo, James D. Hamilton, £900; ditto of Wicklow, William Darley, £700; ditto of Carlow, James A. Wall, £700; Revising Barrister of Dublin, William Kaye, £210; Judge of Court of Probate, Right Hon. R. A. Warren, £3500; Attorney-General, Dr. Ball, £1158 13s. 6d.; Master of Queen's Bench, Hugh Lane, £1200; Clerk of Crown, Londonderry, £370; resident Medical Superintendent at Downpatrick Asylum, George St. George Turan, salary not yet fixed; ditto of Clonmell, W. H. Garner, £200; Lieutenant of County of Sligo, Sir Gore Booth, M.P., no salary; Permanent Inspector of Fisheries, F. S. Mansfield, salary not yet fixed; ditto, T. F. Brady, ditto; Commissioner of National Education, Rev. T. H. Jallett, ditto; Ecclesiastical Commissioner, Viscount de Vesey, ditto. Besides these, thirteen Queen's Counsel were made.

Every Liberal in the House, and many Conservatives, were grieved when the news came that Mr. George Clive, the member for Hereford, was unseated on petition. "I am very sorry for Clive, he is such a good fellow!" was heard on all sides. The same remark was made some years back when the sadder intelligence came that paralysis had struck him, from which, happily, he recovered. And yet Mr. Clive has never done much in the House. He is a good plain speaker, but he rarely speaks. Sound, sensible, and independent, I should think that he is a good committee-man; but we have in the House many as good as he. "But then he is such a good fellow, you know!" We used to have this phrase at school, but the meaning of it could never be well defined. Mr. George Clive was unseated because some rich constituent, to whom Mr. Clive had been kind, to show his gratitude, gave a breakfast to some voters without Mr. C.'s knowledge. This breakfast unseated him. His son, though, has been returned with Mr. Hoskyns, another Liberal; and Sir R. Baggallay and Mr. Arbuthnot have got nothing by their move but the privilege of paying the costs of another contest. The Clives are popular in Hereford, so, seven out of eight Parliaments since the first Reform Bill, Hereford has returned a Clive.

The Duke of Buccleuch has snatched the laurels from the brow of Sir Sidney Waterlow—as I fancied he would. The great Duke was taken somewhat by surprise at the general election. He underrated his enemy. For half a century he had never been

challenged in Dumfriesshire, and when this Sir Sidney Waterlow entered the field his Grace looked down upon the London trader as Goliath of Gath looked upon David. But when the fortune of war gave his Grace another chance, we may be sure that he was prepared, and that all that influence and money could do was done. But, considering this, the majority for Major Walker is surprisingly small. 2198 voters polled; and the Major got only 36 votes more than the Alderman. The Duke's power is held by a slight tenure; with the ballot it would not be worth much. I am sorry Sir Sidney is out, "for he is such a good fellow," and in his case the meaning of the phrase is clear enough. He is exceedingly charitable, and he has discovered a way of being charitable without increasing pauperism.

A week or two ago I called attention to what seemed to me the excessive cost of the children in the Asylum for Fatherless Children, at Croydon, founded by the late excellent Dr. Andrew Reed; and by the report of the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum I perceive that the cost per child is even higher than in the institution at Croydon. In the latter, where I believe both boys and girls are received, each child represents an annual expenditure of a little over £30; but at the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum (where there are only girls, who are generally considered less expensive than boys) we are told that "the cost per child has risen to £31 4s. 9d., and, in spite of loans and an increased subsidy from the Patriotic Fund, the officials are year by year reducing the number of children supported by the charity." Now, I have little doubt that an investigation would show that the funds of both institutions are swallowed up, not in the maintenance of the children but in the payment of a large and expensive staff of officials; and it seems to me that efforts to make income and expenditure balance should take the direction of reductions in the number and pay of the officials, rather than, as at the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum, year by year diminishing the number of children maintained by the charity. It seems incredible that sums of £30 or £31 a year should be necessary to feed, clothe, house, educate, and take care of a child in one institution, when the same work can be done for £19 per head in another, as I perceive is the case in the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, the annual report of which has also appeared this week. Surely it is somebody's business to look into these matters, and to take care that the funds of the two institutions above mentioned are not diverted, as charitable funds usually are, from the benefit of the helpless to the providing comfortable berths for governors, matrons, chaplains, teachers, and so forth. I do not, of course, assert that this is the case as regards those two costly asylums; but I think the matter looks rather suspicious, and that the system of management ought to be inquired into.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

It is a little amusing to see how thoroughly Mr. Charles Reade remains himself in the *Cornhill*. This is, perhaps, the most disciplined of all the magazines—the one in which editorial care does most to put down eccentricities; but it can't put down Mr. Charles Reade. Nor ought it. Mr. Reade is a man who must have his fling, and who always (so to speak) pays his way as he goes. His new story is capital. The paper on *Martial* is very good indeed; but the quotation from Goldsmith, on page 457, is not, I think, quite right. We all make slips, and I only mention this, with great respect for the accomplished author of the paper, in case it should meet his eye, and he should ever reprint the paper. I suppose he was writing at a distance from books. The miscellaneous matter of the number is really excellent.

Once a Week, as usual, is an excellent periodical, but it is not quite so gay as it used to be. When the new series began, I felt sure of getting a good laugh out of every monthly part, but now the fun is not nearly so plentiful. The poems on page 170 and page 230 are very nice. So are the pictures, and so is what is known as "padding"—that is, the miscellaneous matter, which in *Once a Week* is, indeed, always attractive.

I know it is not fair to ask if the essays on women's questions in the *Broadway* are really, as they are ostensibly, "written by a woman." I have said more than once that I think they are not, but, if they are, I should be infinitely more pleased to know it than vexed to find myself in the wrong. The present essay on "Marthas and Marys" is as good as the rest of the series, and something would be due to the publishers for their pluck in printing such daring papers, if there were any probability that they understood them!

In *Tinsley's* two new stories are commenced—one by Mrs. Henry Wood and the other by Mrs. J. H. Riddell. I miss the usual bit of landscape in woodcut—are we going to lose that charming feature? To a writer who puts in a new shape the question, What is to be done with the music-halls? I would venture to make this humble suggestion—begin by doing justice. When, by removing the antiquated "protective" law which enables the Lord Chamberlain to say where plays shall be acted and where they shan't, you have removed all the excuse which the music-hall may now allege for a low style of entertainment and other bad points, you may fairly press other topics. But the result of the present system is degradation to the music-hall and degradative to the theatre.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Easter this year has been ushered in by an unusual number of theatrical novelties. The old dramatic superstition to the effect that Easter Monday should be celebrated by the production of a new extravaganza, is dying out; and, although all the "West-End" theatres, save four, have altered their programmes, at only one has a conventional "Easter piece" been produced on the traditional festival of such pieces.

The most important, and perhaps the most successful, of the new pieces is Mr. T. W. Robertson's "Dreams" at the *GAIETY*. It is by no means the happiest of Mr. Robertson's efforts, but, at the same time, it is far superior to "Shadow-Tree Shaft," "For Love," and his other early dramas. The story is certainly not very strong; indeed, there is a tenuity about it that suggests that Mr. Robertson has had to stretch it to its extreme point of tension in order to cover five acts satisfactorily. There is enough in it, perhaps, for a three-act piece, but I think it would be better still in two. The first act (very nicely written) is superfluous altogether. A spectator who came into the theatre at the commencement of the second act, and who left it during the whole of the third and the greater part of the fourth, would at the end of the fifth act be quite as completely *au courant* with the plot as if he had sat it out conscientiously from the first. The second act is rather conventional in construction, but it is capital written, particularly towards its close. It is certainly the best act in the piece. The third act is a superfluity, and might be cut out without at all affecting the completeness of the plot. The fourth act is admirably written—particularly a dialogue between a patrician and a plebeian old man, which is conceived and carried out in Mr. Robertson's happiest vein. It is marred at its close by a melodramatic incident which is wholly unworthy of the scenes which immediately precede it. The fifth act is prettily written, but it winds up everybody's affairs too summarily: it contained, on the first night, a very dangerous element, that has since been removed. On the whole, the piece is decidedly successful, and will probably run for some months. Its gravest faults lie in the improbability of the story; its greatest virtues in an admirable succession of charmingly written scenes, for the most part foreign to the story, but not the less charming in themselves on that account. When a musician proposes marriage to a Duke's granddaughter (who is already betrothed to an Earl) and that Earl gives the fiddler a sound thrashing, my sympathies are all along with the Earl; and why the Earl should be called upon to apologise to the fiddler for having so thrashed him, is a matter that passes my comprehension altogether; and when I saw Mr. Clayton (who plays the Earl of Mountfreston capitally) apologising to Mr. Alfred Wigan (who does much with a part that is entirely unsuited to him) for having laboured him on account

of his having proposed to the Earl's affianced bride, Miss Robertson (who plays the very difficult part of Lady Clara most charmingly), I felt sorry for the invidious position in which Mr. Clayton was placed. The piece is lavishly mounted. One scene, by Mr. O'Connor, is by far the best "interior" I have ever seen upon the stage; and "Love Lane," by Mr. Grieve, is charming, not only on account of its artistic qualities, but also from an absence of that "gassiness" which forms so strong and so unpleasant a characteristic of most outdoor scenes. A loud cry was raised for the artists, but (to their lasting honour be it said) neither of them spoilt his scene by rushing on to acknowledge the compliment. It is to be hoped that the excellent example set by two leading scenic artists will be followed by the host of nobodies who are always in waiting at the wing to rush on whenever a more than usually elaborate piece of stage-carpentry excites the admiration of the audience. It is right and proper that a clever scene-painter should be complimented by the audience, but the compliment should come in its proper place—at the end of the performance. Mr. Wigan is not suited in the part of the pale and delicate young musician. Of course all that he did was artistic, but it was only too evident that the part was not calculated to evoke the many excellences of this admirable artist. He "doubled" the part of the Rittmeister (the musician's father), though why he should do this, I don't know. The Rittmeister, a bluff old German cavalry soldier, is far better suited to Mr. Wigan than the more important part of the young musician. Miss Robertson was never seen to more advantage than as the coquettish Lady Clara. Mr. Clayton has an excellent part as Lord Mountfreston, and does it the fittest justice. This actor has improved immensely in the course of the last two years. He had had very few good parts—none so good as Lord Mountfreston—and he rises with the occasion. Mr. South played a rather conventional low-comedy character very amusingly, but I think his costume required a little toning down. Mr. Maclean and Mr. Eldred play two very small parts admirably. Miss Rachel Sanger (whom I had only seen in burlesque) rather astonished me by coming out as a professed *ingenue*. She played the part prettily, and quite justified her ambition. She played well received.

Several novel features characterised the entertainment given under the auspices of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION; but, beyond saying that the performances were highly and deservedly successful, I must reserve my notice of them for another occasion.

The Easter amusements at the Crystal Palace are on an extensive scale, the principal feature being a burlesque extravaganza, entitled "Blue Beard, the Great Bashaw, or, the Loves of Selim and Fatima." This one-thousand-and-first version of "Blue Beard" is by Henry T. Arden, Esq., the author of several pieces of a similar kind performed with moderate success at Cremorne and elsewhere. The burlesque is well written, Mr. Arden's lines being generally neat and occasionally witty. Mr. Lionel Brough evokes considerable merriment by his droll embodiment of the tyrant Turk; and Mr. Fred. Evans is grotesque as Shacobac. Miss Julia St. George's singing and Miss Caroline Park's dancing contribute to the success of the piece. The scenery, by Mr. Frederick Fenton, is effective, and the costumes and appointments are magnificent.

In the Assembly Room, Agricultural Hall, Islington, Mr. R. Watson has been this week giving a grand spectral opera entertainment, commencing with an adaptation of Goethe's "Faust," in four scenes, and concluding with a laughable musical *pièce de résistance*, entitled "A Haunted House." The entertainment is chiefly remarkable for the optical illusions which Mr. Watson has introduced, some of which are of a startling character. Amongst the effects produced were the apparition of the traditional white ghost, who is seen to appear through a solid wall of wood; a dancing girl enveloped in fire; a living being taken bodily away by a ghost, and a living head floating and singing in the air. In short, ghosts, phantoms, and goblins are produced in quick succession, and, gradually assuming the form of human beings, sing, dance, and go through a variety of amusing scenes.

THE REVENUE.

Quarter end March 31, 1860.	Quarter end March 31, 1860.	Year end March 31, 1860.	Year end March 31, 1860.	Year ended March 31, 1860.
Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Increase. Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
Customs ... 5,547,000	5,455,000	22,650,000	22,424,000	.. 266,000
Excise ... 5,742,000	5,990,000	20,162,000	20,462,000	300,000 —
Stamps ... 2,498,000	2,542,000	9,541,000	9,218,000	.. 323,000
Taxes ... 414,000	431,000	3,509,000	3,494,000	.. 15,000
Property Tax: 3,067,000	3,271,000	6,177,000	6,818,000	2,441,000 —
Post Office ... 1,100,000	1,200,000	4,630,000	4,660,000	30,000 —
Crown Lands ... 101,000	102,000	345,000	360,000	15,000 —
Miscellaneous 909,574	1,088,888	2,586,219	3,355,991	769,772 —
Total ... 19,578,574	20,169,888	69,600,219	72,591,991	3,555,772 564,000
Net Increase ... 2,991,772				

NATIONAL EDUCATION.—A Parliamentary paper, prepared, on the motion of Mr. Acland, by the Educational Department of the Privy Council, gives an account of the sums expended out of the moneys voted by Parliament for public education in England and Wales between March 31, 1858, and April 1, 1860. It also gives, so far as could be estimated, an account of the sums derived from subscriptions, school pence, or other sources, and spent in connection with the moneys voted by Parliament. During the decade upwards of six million pounds have been expended out of the moneys voted by Parliament for England and Wales, whilst nearly nine millions were derived from subscriptions, school pence, and other sources. The total sum granted by Parliament for educational purposes in Scotland during the ten years was not much over a million pounds, and nearly a million and a half was derived from other sources.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS AS A POOR-LAW GUARDIAN.—In the list of persons nominated to serve as guardians of the poor for the parish of Bethnal-green, which has just been annexed to the doors of the workhouse there appears, as one of the candidates for the west ward, the name of "Angelina Georgiana Burdett Coutts, of 1, Stratton-street, Westminster, and Holly Lodge, Highgate." Miss Coutts is the owner of a large amount of property in the parish, the model lodgings-houses in Columbia-square and the handsome and capacious new Columbia Market having been erected by that benevolent lady. The latter edifice has been recently inspected by the various district wards and vestries and the Metropolitan Board of Works, and will be opened on May 1 next. It would be a fortunate thing for the poor in Bethnal-green if Miss Burdett Coutts had a seat upon a board whose name has been somewhat too frequently before the public in reference to the peculiar tone of the proceedings at some of their meetings.

SHOCKING COLLIERY ACCIDENT THROUGH NEGLIGENCE.—A serious accident occurred on Wednesday morning at a colliery belonging to Mr. Noah Hingley, at Reddall-hill, a few miles from Stourbridge. Some of the colliers had been at work during the night, and on finishing their "stint" were drawn to the surface in the usual way. Two of the men, however, named Henry Carless and John Willets, were, owing to the neglect of the engineer to stop the machinery, drawn over the pulley. Carless fell backwards into the depths of the mine and was dashed to pieces. Willets escaped the opening of the shaft, but he was thrown heavily on the side of the pit. His skull was fractured, several of his ribs were broken, and he was so severely injured that it is stated there is no possibility of his recovery. Following so soon on the Brierly accident, and in the immediate neighbourhood, the affair occasioned much excitement. Benjamin Danks, the engineer, was apprehended soon after the accident, and he was subsequently taken before the magistrate at Oldhill Petty Sessions, on a charge of manslaughter. After hearing sufficient evidence for the purpose, the magistrate remanded him. Danks is a respectable young man, and it is stated that at the time of the accident he had been at work an unusual length of time without intermission.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Princess Louisa and Prince Arthur, visited the Count of Paris on Tuesday at Claremont. The Duchess of Cambridge arrived at Windsor in the evening on a visit to her Majesty.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES reached the Dardanelles on Wednesday, and was expected in Constantinople on Thursday.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to take the chair at the fifty-fourth anniversary dinner of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, in June next.

THE SECOND SON BY PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN was baptised on Wednesday, in the private chapel of Windsor Castle. Her Majesty was present at the ceremony, which was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE, the late Governor-General of India, has this week been gazetted Baron Lawrence, of the Punjab, and of Grately, in the county of Southampton.

DR. WORDSWORTH, who was appointed to the Bishopric of Lincoln in November last, was on Tuesday enthroned in the cathedral city of his diocese. The ceremonial, which was of the character usual on such occasions, was witnessed by a large number of both clergy and laity.

THE PROFESSORSHIP OF MILITARY SURVEYING in the Royal Military College at Sandhurst has become vacant by the death of Major Robert Petley.

M. DURUY, the Minister of Public Instruction in France, the Parisian wits say, is to be created "Comte de Saint-Trapéze," as a reward for the zeal he has shown in promoting the teaching of gymnastics in public schools.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BERNARD W. A. SLEIGH, who was the founder and first proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, is dead. He was formerly connected with the 77th Foot and the 2nd West India Regiment.

THE PLAYGROUND OF CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL has been let on a building lease, and will probably soon be covered over. It is nearly two acres in extent.

THE INCLOSURE OF ST. JAMES'S PARK is to be placed under the charge of the metropolitan police, and the park-keepers are to be disestablished, if not disengaged.

WILLIAM SHEWARD was found guilty, at the Norwich Assizes, on Tuesday, of the murder of his wife in June, 1851, and was sentenced to death.

DR. BEALE has resigned the Physiological Chair at King's College Hospital, and a good deal of interest is felt in medical circles in reference to his successor. The choice of the council will, it is confidently expected, be between three gentlemen—namely, Dr. John Harley, Dr. Burden Sanderson, and Dr. Yeo.

A PENSION of £50 per annum has been granted by her Majesty to the widow of Dr. Robert Armstrong, the late head master of the South Lambeth Grammar School, author of the "Dictionary of the Gaelic Language," &c. The Queen, at the instance of the Premier, has also bestowed a pension of £100 a year on the widow of William Carleton, the Irish novelist.

SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES are said to have been discovered at Portsmouth Dockyard. Several officers are said to be compromised, furniture, &c., having been made in the yard for private use.

THE PACIFIC MAIL-STEAMER HERMANN, with Japanese troops on board, has been wrecked seventy miles north of Yokohama. From 250 to 300 persons perished with the vessel.

A DOUBLE ATTEMPT has been made to assassinate The Magillcuddy of the Reeks, in his domain at Killarney. He was twice fired at from the shrubbery. His clothes were perforated with slugs, but he himself was uninjured. He is but seventeen years of age. Robbery is believed to have been the object of the would-be assassin.

M. PAUL DE CASSAGNAC has surrendered himself as prisoner at the Concierge to undergo the sentence pronounced against him by the Correctional Tribunal in consequence of his duel with M. Lissagaray.

A PASSENGER-TRAIN from St. Albans, on Monday, came into collision with some empty carriages at the King's-cross station of the Great Northern Railway. Several persons were much shaken, but none were seriously injured.

THE BANK FOUNDED IN THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL BY THE EX-KING OF HANOVER has taken the name of "Bank of Vienna." The founders, amongst whom are the Duke of Modena and the Duke of Nassau, keep the shares of the concern in their own hands, and do not allow them to be negotiated at the Bourse.

THE MAYOR OF NIMES has published a decision interdicting the use of velocipedes in the interior of the town, or on the side pavements of public places and boulevards. They must, besides, be provided after nightfall with red lanterns. A somewhat similar order has been issued at Cherbourg.

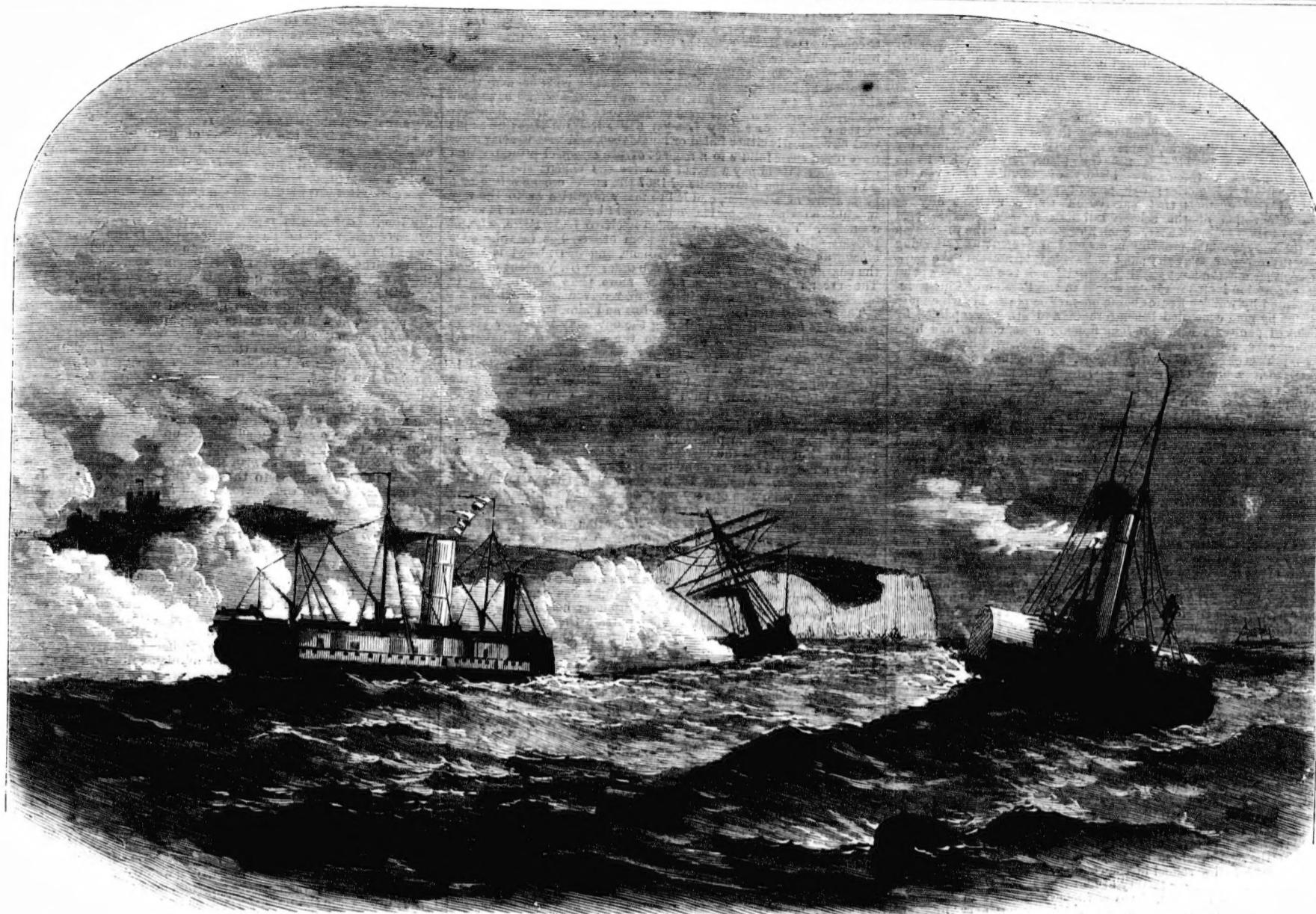
THE SOUTH LONDON MUSIC-HALL, a building near the Elephant and Castle, was, with its stage and fittings, entirely destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning. The fire is said to have originated in one of the dressing-rooms. It is understood that the proprietor was fully insured.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE INDEX, at Rome, has condemned Count Mamiani's works on "National Law" and the "Theory of Religion and of the State," the recent "Letter of M. Foulkes to Archbishop Manning," and the journal *Emancipatore Cattolico*.

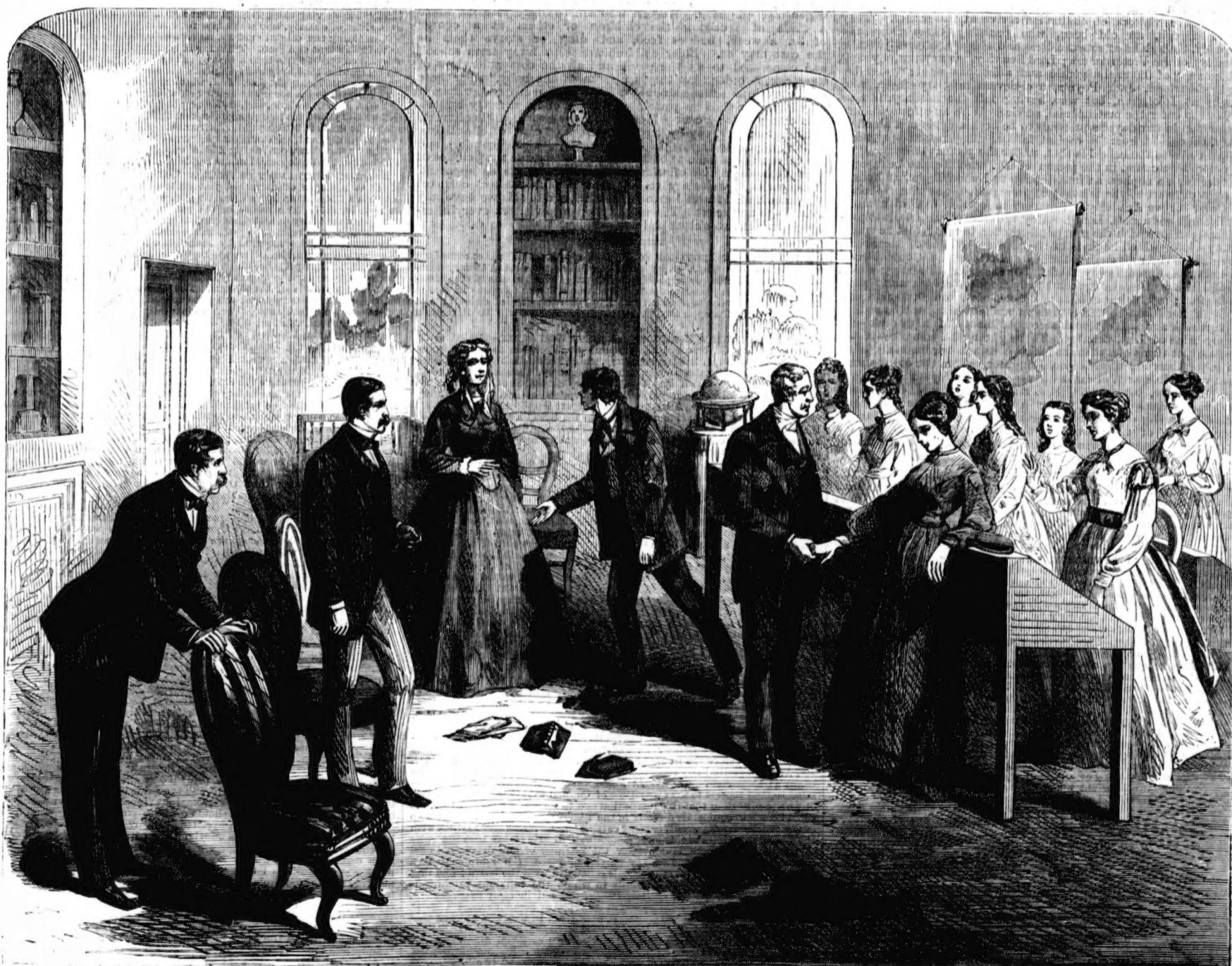
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GOOD FRIDAY IN SEVILLE: THE PROCESSION OF THE CORPUS.



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW: DOVER HEIGHTS AS SEEN FROM THE SEA.



SCENE FROM MR. T. W. ROBERTSON'S COMEDY, "SCHOOL," AT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.

GOOD FRIDAY AT SEVILLE.

Quien no ha visto a Sevilla
No ha visto una maravilla,

says the Spanish proverb; and those who have visited the wonderful capital of Andalusia, lounged in its streets, walked in its shady groves under the sapphire sky, pondered in the shadows of its glorious cathedral, dreamed in the cool porches of its picturesque streets, or looked out over the whole lovely city from its lofty tower, acknowledge the truth of the proud saying. The very origin of this marvellous place is lost in the recesses of history. Did Hercules or Bacchus, Hebrews, Chaldeans, or Phoenicians, lay its foundations? This is not the place, however, for us to enter into the fascinating history of Seville, or even to describe all its glories; our present purpose is to chronicle one of the customs that survive in the marvellous city in the celebration of the solemn religious festival that is held on the Friday before Easter. Such a ceremony as "the procession of the body" would probably be deemed irreverent and shocking in a Protestant community; but in Seville it is not only the most interesting but the most striking exhibition of the holy week; and the procession includes various scenes in the Passion of Christ, represented by wooden figures borne on cars or platforms which are carried by men concealed beneath them, and are accompanied by trains of penitents attired in long flowing robes, cloaks, and high peaked caps, veils or masks covering the face, with holes for the eyes. These penitents carry tapers, and banners or allegorical standards, while others bear long trumpets, ornamented with velvet pennons. The clergy of each district attend the procession with all the ornaments of their churches and orders, so that the spectacle is of the most brilliant description. Gold and velvet, silk and jewels flash and glitter in the sun, and the vestments of the gilded and painted statues, as well as the dresses of the attendant clergy, are richly adorned and embroidered. Even the penitents may be said to dress with an eye to mundane vanity; for the tying of their white stockings, and the silver buckles of their shoes, have evidently received careful attention. Around the "pasos" or cars are grouped men dressed in fantastic imitation of Roman soldiers, with visors, plumes, and armour; and some of the monks bear heavy crosses of wood. The procession is six hours on its march, and is often prolonged during the night, when the spectacle completely changes its character, and becomes even more singularly picturesque from the flare of the torches and the dark shadows of the "pasos," and the figures that are borne upon them, which stand out like black silhouettes against the clear sky, as the throng of devotees chanting their low psalms pass along, the vast crowd opening before them to admit them on their way.

"SCHOOL."

The controversy about the originality of Mr. T. W. Robertson's "School" has quite died away, and the comedy has had a continuous "run" at the Prince of Wales's Theatre since the middle of January, and seems to have as much vitality in it as ever. The piece, as has already been explained by our Theatrical Lounger, is partially derived, so far as plot is concerned, from a German piece founded on the story of "Cinderella and the Glass Slipper"; but the dialogue is entirely original.

The plot lies in a nutshell—the tiniest of filberts. Once upon a time there was an orphan named Bella, the sweetest, most amiable girl in the world, whose hard fate it was to drudge as a pupil-teacher at a ladies' school in the country. The girls love her (let us change the tense for facility of narration), and Dr. Sutcliffe, the schoolmistress's husband, takes a friendly interest in her; but, though she has no proud sisters to domineer over her, she endures at the hands of Mrs. Sutcliffe and Mr. Krux, a resident master, persecution as pitiless as her prototype in the fairy tale suffered from the envy of her haughty kinswomen. Presently three visitors of distinction arrive at the school. They are Farintosh, an old beau, who probably dates from the Regency, though he affects the dress and airs of the most juvenile "swells" of the Victorian era; Lord Beaufoy, his nephew, a young nobleman "of manners gentle and affections mild;" and his nephew's friend, Jack Poyntz, a ci-devant infantry officer, who fought at Inkerman, but who, having left the military, is now anxious to enter the matrimonial service. With an affectation not uncommon in our day, he pretends to be both a cynic and a voluptuary, though at heart a capital fellow. The reason why these people come to the school is that, under the pretext of looking up an old college chum, in the person of Dr. Sutcliffe, the beau may procure for his nephew an introduction to Naomi Tighe, an heiress as light of heart as she is heavy of purse, who is one of the scholars at Cedar Grove Academy. The ruse is carried out with much artifice but no success. Lord Beaufoy, ignoring the heiress, falls passionately in love with the poor pupil-teacher, to whose foot he traces a tiny slipper which he finds in the pleasure-grounds. Meantime, Poyntz lays vigorous siege to the heart of Naomi and soon contrives to establish supreme sway there. For the crime of flirting with a Lord, Bella is dismissed ignominiously from the school, and repairs to London; but, to the delight of her friends and the utter discomfiture of her foes, she soon returns in brilliant array with a retinue of servants and all external accompaniments of high rank—the happy bride of Lord Beaufoy. To heighten the romance of the situation, it turns out that she is first cousin to her husband, being no other than Farintosh's granddaughter, whom the old beau has been vainly in search of for many years past. Poyntz and Naomi are, of course, betrothed. Mrs. Sutcliffe suddenly discovers a thousand virtues in the "young person" whom she had hitherto so cruelly oppressed; the school-girls are overjoyed at the good fortune of their favourite teacher; everybody is in good spirits; and a hearty sense of enjoyment prevails at both sides of the curtain, when the story is brought to a conclusion.

THE FUNERAL OF M. BOSZORMENYI, one of the leaders of the Extreme Left in Hungary, who died on the 24th ult., whilst in prison for a press offence, took place on the morning of the 26th. It was feared that a riotous demonstration would be made on the occasion; but, although 40,000 persons were present, all passed over quietly. M. Irantz, a friend of Kosuth, pronounced a funeral oration on the occasion.

BARONESS JULIA EBERGENYI, who, as may be remembered, was about two years back condemned to imprisonment for life, for having, with Count Chorinsky, poisoned the wife of the latter, has just made an attempt to escape from the prison of Nendorf, under the disguise of a nun. She was, however, detected and stopped by one of the gaolers at the moment she was about to pass through the gates. A lady belonging to a high family of Vienna was waiting for her outside with a carriage.

THE RECENT GALE.—The hurricane which prevailed during the early part of Monday has done considerable damage, especially around the coast. The Russian barque Sovinto, from Shields, via London, bound to Cadiz, with coals, struck on a wreck near the Elbow Buoy, and for safety ran on shore on the Main, off Deal. The brig John and Ann, of Whitby, from Hartlepool, was driven ashore at the back of the North Pier at Lowestoft. The crew were saved by beachmen, but the vessel was full of water. In North Yorkshire very violent changes have been experienced, the weather having ranged from extreme heat to intense cold. Farmers seem quite bewildered, and considerable losses among lambs have occurred on the hills. Last Saturday night a violent thunderstorm set in, and on the Newton Moors a shed was fired by lightning and some sheep were burnt. For some hours the lightning continued, lighting up the snow-clad landscape. The lightning was incessant up to one a.m. on Sunday. During Sunday snow fell in showers, and at night lightning again prevailed. Vast cumuli floated overhead as if in midsummer storm. At a place called Shaw-end, near Leatholm Bridge, on the North Yorkshire line of railway, a cottage was struck by lightning and completely demolished, the fragments being strewn in all directions. The occupants of the cottage—a man named Watson, his wife, and a child seven years of age—were in bed at the time. The house is somewhat isolated, and nothing was known of the terrible event until next morning, when the persons living in the nearest dwelling made the discovery. The Watsons, man and wife, were found quite dead, locked in each other's arms, the bedding burnt to ashes, and their bodies much blackened; the child, who was in the same bed with his parents, had managed to escape, and was discovered, almost dead with cold, in an outbuilding. A breach in the bank of the Ouse, which excited much alarm, has been promptly, and it is believed effectually, repaired. All danger of inundation is supposed to be over.

THE CRECHE IN BEAUMONT-STREET.

AN endeavour is now being made, under the rules and conditions found necessary by large experience, to establish in London a Crèche, or Day Nursery, for the infants of working mothers. Such institutions have been for four-and-twenty years among the most useful of the charities of Paris and its environs, where the administration of charity is better understood than with us, and where the need for this form of it is far less urgent. There have been attempts, we believe, from time to time to introduce the principle of the crèche into sundry London and rural parishes; attempts that have mostly either failed or languished, and that in some cases have owed their failure to a neglect of the essential principle that the mother should pay a proper sum for the benefit she receives. At the Exposition Universelle of 1867 the model crèche attracted a large share of attention, and led to many inquiries as to the way in which so admirable an institution could be naturalised in other countries. The subject commanded itself to Lady Petre, who, at present with little pecuniary aid from others, has established a crèche at Beaumont-street, Marylebone, and has placed it under the charge of Sisters of Mercy of the order of St. Vincent of Paul. The crèche has now been rather more than two months in operation, and about twenty infants are received and cared for.

The rules of the institution are few and simple. Any mother who works for her livelihood during the day may leave her young child or children from six o'clock in the morning until half-past eight at night. Children over three years of age are eligible for an infant school, and are not received at the crèche. On arrival in the morning the children are bathed by the Sisters, clothed for the day, and tended carefully until their mothers fetch them away in the evening. Nursing mothers are allowed access to their infants once or twice a day; but the nurslings, as well as other children, are fed plentifully on plain and wholesome food, as their needs require. For all this the charge made to the mother is 3d. a day for one child, or 4d. for two children if they are taken away by six in the evening. Another 1d. is charged if they remain after six. To meet the case of very poor women obtaining work, credit is given them until they receive wages; but daily payment is the rule. No child is allowed to be left during the night, and any child left for three nights would be considered deserted and would be sent to the workhouse. Due care is taken to secure vaccination and to exclude contagious disorders.

On a recent visit to the house we found two rooms occupied by the children. In one a party of six or eight was seated round a table of good dimensions, but of a liliputian height, adapted to the small people who used it. When outside the door we heard a very jovial chorus; but the jangle of toys and the prattle of lisping tongues were alike suspended by the entrance of a stranger. In a cradle in the same room a baby a month old was sleeping; and one of the sisters was giving bread and milk to a little one who looked ailing, and who, though said to be much improved in condition, still showed signs of the cachexia engendered by the squallor of a London court. He was a comparatively new comer. The adjoining room contained more little ones, lying in cribs, and mostly sleeping; although one, at least, was wide awake, and was chuckling to himself with an air of supreme contentment. The sleeping-room contained a good large basin and sponge, and, in reply to our question, we were assured that the mothers not only saw these articles themselves, but were made acquainted with their uses. Indeed, it seems that great pains are taken in every well-regulated crèche, to respect and strengthen the maternal tie.

This small beginning may be the germ of an institution that may supply one of the greatest wants of the labouring poor of London, and a want, moreover, they can in no way supply for themselves. The going out to work of the mothers is in many cases a matter of necessity, but it is none the less a frightful source of infantile mortality. Children who do not die of neglect often grow up sickly and stunted, to be themselves the parents of still more degenerate offspring. Women who are too lazy to work make a trade of receiving the children of others at a charge of 3s. a week, besides food, and drag or starve them as the case may be. Elder children are kept away from school, and committed to all the perils and all the companionships of the street, in order that they may "mind the baby." For these evils the crèche affords a remedy. The poor mother who uses it may leave her child in perfect confidence of its security and its well-doing, and at a charge fairly within the compass of her humble means. She sees, day by day, the effect of care, of cleanliness, and of proper feeding in promoting his health and comfort, and she cannot fail in time to be herself drawn towards the practice of those domestic virtues of which the good effects are so apparent. It is, perhaps, necessary to say that Beaumont-street connects Weymouth-street with Devonshire-street, and to this we have only to add—go and see it. The crèche is open to visitors every afternoon between two o'clock and five.—*Times*.

AN IMPORTANT PROVISION of the Railways Regulation Act came into operation on Thursday. Every train travelling more than twenty miles without stopping is to be provided with an efficient means of communication between the passengers and the servants of the company in charge of the train. There is a penalty of £10 for each case of default; and passengers using the apparatus without sufficient cause will be liable to a fine of £5.

THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS AT WOOLWICH.—Added to the changes in the Government departments at Woolwich is the proposed abolition of the Royal Military Academy, which has held a high rank among the military educational establishments of the country. The school, it is stated, will be amalgamated with the Royal Military School, Sandhurst, and the building at Woolwich devoted to the purposes of advanced military instruction for the Royal Artillery. The Herbert Hospital at Shooter's-hill is to be given up, and the inmates housed in the Royal Marine Infirmary at Woolwich, which is at present unoccupied. For the future the Royal Marine Infirmary will be constituted a general hospital for regiments and corps of all branches of the service.

THE HULL CONVENT.—We heard a great deal of the "vow of poverty" while the case of "Saurin v. Starr and Kennedy" was being tried, but it is an engagement which seems compatible with the command of large sums of money for purposes of litigation, and it would appear, with the desire for more. It was rumoured a fortnight ago that the result of that trial would probably be brought before the Court of Queen's Bench *in banc* for review. Before, however, any proceeding of that kind can take place, Miss Saurin has filed a bill in Chancery against the whole of the nuns in the Hull Convent, with the view of compelling a distribution of its property. It is very likely that the sum which, under an equal distribution of that property, would fall to Miss Saurin's share would exceed the amount—£300—which she paid into the Dublin Convent when she was professed, and the return of which was awarded to her by the recent verdict. What it would be after the common fund had been diminished by a Chancery suit it would be hazardous to predict. Perhaps the way in which the Hull sisters could best defend the property of the convent and the existence of the institution itself would be to pay Miss Saurin at once the largest amount which she could receive on any possible division of the estate.—*Daily News*.

THE CONGREGATIONALISTS AND EDUCATION.—Until recently the Congregational Dissenters (better known to many still by their old name of Independents) set their faces as a flint against all State interference with education. But, as Mr. Matthew Arnold, her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, phrases it, "the course of events, to which no wise man will obstinately refuse to adapt his own course," has led the Congregational Board of Education to determine to take their share of State aid for their schools; and there has been laid before the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Baines, Mr. Arnold's preliminary report on the normal and practical schools of the board at Homerton. Mr. Arnold found them thoroughly worthy of assistance, and reports to the Committee of Council that it is for the interest of public education that this institution and the schools connected with it should come to co-operate directly in the national work which, by the help of the Parliamentary grant, is being carried on. He seems much struck with the liberal principles of this large denomination. He states that the rules of the board set forth that neither the learning of any denominational formulary nor attendance on any particular place of worship shall be a condition of admission into the schools connected with the board; and that they will receive into union schools in which the religious teaching is Evangelical, although not entirely Congregational in their management. He is of opinion that the conception of this type of popular school "has in its elements of utility which may well bear fruit in the future;" and that the division of schools, as in Germany, into Evangelical and Catholic is the very best that can be adopted, recognising essential differences and effacing non-essential.

THE PASSOVER IN JERUSALEM.

By the kindly offices of a friend—a Christian Israelite—we gained admission to the houses of several Hebrew families on the night of the Passover. The same general order of things was observed in them all. A long table was arranged for the sacred meal in the centre of the chief room of the house, and both chamber and table were adorned according to the wealth and taste of the occupier. In the centre of the table was a basket with unleavened bread. Dishes containing hard-boiled eggs and salads were scattered about, the salads representing the bitter herbs of old; and wine from the vineyards of Bethlehem, sweetened with raisins, was plentifully supplied. At sunset the entire family, old and young, gathered round the frugal board, the men at one end and the women at the other, while the children occupied places between. In front of the male members of the family was set a platter containing a piece of roast lamb, usually a cutlet from the loin. Before the repast commenced the narrative of the exodus was read in Hebrew by one of the younger sons, and the patriarch of the group now and then interrupted the reader by throwing in some explanation of the text, or answering questions which were proposed. The narrative concluded, the head of the family led the devotions of the evening by reading some liturgical prayers. Then the feast commenced, at which the males only partook of the paschal lamb, while the women contented themselves with eggs and salad. At the conclusion of the repast the ancient psalms of David were sung in their peculiar nasal fashion, which occupation often advances far into the night. To us these Jews displayed courteous hospitality, and pressed upon us their unleavened bread and very excellent wine; and when, in parting from the interesting scene, we asked an aged patriarch whether he still anticipated the advent of the Messiah, a ray of gladness lit up his furrowed face as he replied, "I am expecting His appearance every day." On the following Saturday—the Jewish Sabbath—we repaired at seven o'clock in the morning to the chief synagogue of the Jews in Jerusalem. During the previous night heavy showers had fallen—the "latter rain" of Scripture. This had accumulated in the narrow streets for want of drainage, until the huge pools of water and mire rendered locomotion a thing of difficulty. The water had even invaded the floor of the sanctuary, and while we were looking about for a resting-place within we were politely invited to take seats on the raised platform which occupied the centre of the building. From this conspicuous position we commanded the entire assembly. On the area some six or seven hundred persons were squatting on benches with their legs folded under them, the books of Moses or some Hebrew Liturgy on their knees, their heads covered (for the symbol of obeisance in the East is the uncovering of the feet), and a thick veil over their faces, as a memorial of the veil worn by Moses when he descended from the Mount, and which reminded us of the language of the Apostle Paul, "that to this day when Moses is read the veil is upon their hearts." Behind thick lattice-work, in a high-pitched gallery, were to be dimly seen the female portion of the assembly, but to all appearance mere spectators of a formal and feeble service. On the platform near us sat the Chief Rabbi, who presided in the assembly. But what to us was specially interesting was the presence of a youth called up out of the assembly, as Jesus was at Nazareth, to read the Hebrew Scripture. This exercise concluded, the sacred roll was carried through every part of the edifice, that the worshippers might kiss the heaven-sent law before it was deposited in the archives by the ruler of the synagogue. A few liturgical prayers were then read, or rather nasally intoned, by the Rabbi, to which responses were made in guttural and boisterous tones. The teaching element was entirely wanting, and the worship appeared to us little more than the formal and punctilious performance of religious duty.—*Sunday at Home*.

A DANGEROUS "SISTER OF CHARITY."—A few evenings since, as a farmer was driving towards St. Bonnet-le-Château (Loire), he was accosted by a sister of charity, who asked him for a seat in his cart. He consented, but, in aiding the other to get up, he became certain that the hand which he took was that of a man. Thinking it best to dissemble for the moment, he suffered the other to take a seat by his side, but, on reaching a hill, told his companion that they must alight to let the horse walk up the ascent. The pretended sister got down first, which she had no sooner done than he gave the lash to his horse and started off at full speed. The next moment he heard a shrill whistle, and, looking back, saw that the whole party were going across the fields to intercept him further on. He reached the town, however, in safety, and, on examining his carriage, found in it a basket, left behind by the sister, containing £20 in money, a pistol, and a poniard, the whole of which he deposited in the hands of the police.

ENGLISH GIRLS AND THE FRENCH MARRIAGE LAW.—The Tribunal of First Instance of Paris has just declared null and void a marriage between a Frenchman and an English girl, which was solemnised at Cardiff on Nov. 14, 1867. The names of the parties are not given in the report. It appears that they at first attempted to get married by the French Consul at Cardiff, but he refused to perform the ceremony, on the ground that the previous formalities required by French law had not been complied with. They were then married before the registrar, and also by a Catholic priest, at St. David's Chapel, Cardiff. The husband was at the time twenty-eight years of age, and the young lady, whose father, moreover, gave his consent, was upwards of twenty-one. The Court held that, although the marriage before the registrar was good according to the laws of England, yet it was void in France, because clandestine, and purposely concealed from the husband's father, whose consent should first have been asked by an *acte réspectue*. This is a new instance of the danger which English girls run when they marry foreigners in England.

THE BURGLARY AT THE PREMIER'S.—The Victoria Cross for Ann Budd! Nothing less should adorn the stout heart of that heroic housemaid, No. 10, Downing-street, is the official residence of the Prime Minister, and Mr. Gladstone's private secretary lives there. The housemaid, whose brief but illustrious name is now enrolled in the book of fame—though a Budd by any other name would prove as sweet—looking from the third floor, detected William Roberts running down stairs with a bundle. To give chase down three or four flights of stairs to the kitchen door, to catch the fugitive by the collar, to take from him a sealskin jacket and two shawls which he had wound round his waist, to detain him till the butler arrived, "all was the work of a moment." The audacious villain entering thus the official residence of the First Minister may have wished to stimulate Mr. Bruce into improving his bill against "habitual criminals;" but we have received hints of another explanation. One Archbishop, three Bishops, twenty-three Archdeacons, and fourteen laymen of the Irish Church have written private letters to us, assuring us that "these things are an allegory;" by which they mean that William Roberts was only carrying out on a small scale the present principles of William Gladstone, the difference being in favour of the less known man. One robe a house, the other a church: the inference is obvious. If Archbishops may be "disenobedient," why not Prime Ministers, their wives, or their secretaries' wives? On hearing this terribly cogent and convincing argument, we can only ask our clerical correspondents, "Why did you not mention this before?" If stated in time, it might have arrested the sacrilegious hands of a recreant Senate and an apostate nation.—*Telegraph*.

THE DUBLIN VESTRIES AND THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—When the formal business of the Easter Vestries had concluded on Monday meetings were held in the various parishes of Dublin and its vicinity for the election of lay representatives to represent the parishioners in a general conference held on Wednesday in St. Patrick's Cathedral, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Dublin. The *Freeman's Journal* says:—"These vestry meetings were all characterised by one feature—the most bigoted intolerance. They were called to elect churchwardens, sidesmen, and other parochial officers. Every man who voted at the late election for Mr. Pim or Sir D. Corrigan was denounced as unfit even to collect alms for the poor. In St. Peter's a formal resolution declaring the innate tyranny of the Church was discussed, and when approved in principle by all, withdrawn to save appearances, but acted on vigorously, and the name of Mr. Damer erased from the list of sidesmen because he exercised his franchise conscientiously. Is it not time that this upas-tree should cease to cumber the ground? The President of the College of Physicians, Dr. Churchill, was objected to because he voted for Alderman Moylan, one of the most respected of our merchants, as a municipal representative, though he tendered his services as an opponent of Mr. Gladstone's bill. But the weakness of the Church party was demonstrated by that very opposition, for in a parish which numbers nearly 3000 Protestants, but thirty-five were found to take sufficient interest in the election of officers and delegates to the approaching conference to attend and vote for the most acceptable candidate. In the other parishes the same paucity of attendants was observed, and the delegates' to the great convention that is to demolish Mr. Gladstone and his bill, or repeal the Union in the event of failure, were for the most part elected by 'empty benches.'

A SCHEME OF JUVENILE EMIGRATION.

MISS RYE is going to try the experiment of deporting the street Arabs of London and other large towns to Canada and the Western States. She is encouraged to make the experiment by the success which has attended the labours of Mr. Van Meter, who claims to have rescued 2000 children from the slums of New York and to have given them a fair start in the West. Miss Rye will be prepared, she says, to start with a party of children for the West about August. The matter was pressed upon her attention by both press and people in America. They said:—"You talk of your poverty, your increasing pauperism, your growing crime. We have bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh; we want to help you; we do not want your paupers or your criminals, but bring us your children—your waifs and strays, your orphan outcasts, the raw material from which your criminals and your Magdalens are manufactured, and we will show you that the best method of treating pauperism and crime is to raise the people to the possession of some property. We have no money to give you, no time for platform speeches, no belief in institutions; but such as we have we give you—a bed at the side, a seat at the fire, the church, the school, with our own children, and, in time, a hand at the plough, and a good share of the increase of a land where the measure is always full and running over." "I have no wish and no intention (says Miss Rye) that this work shall interfere in any way with my work for adult women; that, God willing, will go on simultaneously with this; but I cannot conceal from myself the fact that the poorest of the most destitute of our women—the people I most wish to help—are the very people for whom I can do the least; nor do I see any way of effectually eradicating that common disgrace of our common womanhood—the London needlewoman—except by some such method as I have just described. As the boys have more 'home' and 'reformatory' accommodation than the girls, and have also the Army and Navy by which to earn their bread, besides innumerable trades, while the girls are confined almost exclusively to domestic service and needlework, I propose taking only female children; and they are to be—1, Orphans; 2, Children who have been deserted five years; 3, Foundlings, also deserted; and all to be of the age of from five to ten years. To start this work properly I shall want £1000 at least. Should I be able to raise this sum, I shall take some small place in or near London as a sheltering-home until the children are ready to start, and another and similar place in Canada ready to receive them upon our arrival in that country, and from which the children would be draughted as fit and suitable opportunities occurred. I am in treaty for a little property in the village of Niagara; and, if it be ultimately so arranged that our 'Western Wanderers' Home' should be in that locality, I have received many promises of help 'in kind' to keep the children on our first arrival, and an assurance from the people of that one district that they will adopt, either for life, or to bring up with a view to ultimate service, twenty-five of the children when I bring them. As I am a Protestant myself, and am anxious that there should be no difficulty raised at any future time on this point, I desire to say that all the children committed to my care will be placed under or within the influence of clergymen of our National Church, or Evangelical ministers of other denominations, upon whose co-operation I know I may rely, and who will supply quarterly reports of the welfare of the little ones living in their respective neighbourhoods, and with members of their congregations."

SUNKEN TREASURE.

ON the night of Oct. 7, 1799, her Majesty's ship *Lutine*, freighted with an enormous amount of specie, varying from £1,500,000 to £3,000,000, founded off the sandbanks on the north-west coast of Holland, and the greater bulk of that treasure still lies buried with but nine fathoms of water over it. The *Lutine* was bound to a port in the Zuyder Zee, and the £1,500,000 she had on board was a subsidy money for the English troops who were then serving under the Prince of Holland, Holland being at war with France. She had also on board large assignments of specie for merchants in the country, as well as for bullion-dealers and bankers at Hamburg, to which port she was to have proceeded after landing the Government subsidy-money at the port in the Zuyder Zee. There were also on board the Crown jewels of Holland, which had been sent to this country by the Prince of Orange to be reset and polished by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, the then famous jewellers to the English Court, on Ludgate-hill. The *Lutine*, in making for the entrance of the Zuyder Zee, encountered a fearful storm, and was driven on a sandbank between the islands of Terschelling and Vlieland, and subsequently foundered, all her officers and crew, except one man, perishing. The survivor, however, only lived a few hours. He was picked up by some Dutch boatmen who found him floating on some spars, and, after stating the facts of the dreadful wreck, he died. Nearly 200 persons perished in the ill-fated vessel. After much exertion, the sunken wreck of the *Lutine* was discovered lying in nine fathoms water within three miles of the western portion of the island of Terschelling; but no attempt, we believe, was made to recover the sunken treasure for one or two years, owing, in a great measure, to the shifting sand-banks and the rapidity of the tides which swept over the spot. The Dutch Government offered a reward of £8000 for the recovery of the Crown jewels, which, with other inducements held out in England, led to a company being formed, which commenced operations, and in a few years they recovered about £160,000 of the specie, of which the Dutch Government claimed £80,000 as a royalty. In addition to the £160,000 recovered, another £60,000 was recovered by other companies. The last recovery occurred a few years since, and about £20,000 was paid as royalty to the Government, who up to that time had repudiated all claims on the wreck by the English underwriters and marine insurance companies who had taken lines of insurance on the specie, and had paid the £1,500,000 as a total loss. All the underwriters who were interested and paid on the total loss have been dead some years, and it being impossible for any claim to be set up by any surviving relatives of the underwriters, Lloyd's, it is said, intend to apply to Parliament for powers to appropriate all moneys recovered from the wreck for purposes named in the proposals. Of the £80,000 which the Dutch Government formerly received as royalty money no portion has been returned; but the second amount of £20,000 was made over to Lloyd's a few years since by order of the King of Holland, which sum remains untouched by the managing committee, and, with the interest that has accumulated since, nearly £9000, it is probable that operations will be renewed on the wreck during the ensuing summer, and on a scale which is likely to be eminently successful.

THE FAMOUS BEEFSTEAK CLUB has been dissolved, and the furniture, plate, oil portraits, and prints belonging to the members, will in a few days be disposed of by auction.

A LONG-LOST CHILD.—An extraordinary recovery of a long-lost child is reported from Liverpool. A poor woman named Welsh, who kept a stall in a Liverpool market, lost her little girl, two years old, seven years since, under circumstances which left no doubt in her mind that a beggar-woman named Margaret Smith, to whom she had just given a piece of bread, had stolen it. The poor woman gave up her stall and adopted the calling of a hawker, in the hope that by incessantly wandering about the country she might hear something of her lost child. She often heard of the woman Smith, who was well known under the sobriquet of "Liverpool Peg," but never succeeded in meeting with her till Saturday last, when she encountered her in a beerhouse, and immediately gave her into custody. In the mean time the child, now nine years of age, had undergone some remarkable experiences. In June, 1867, she was apprehended in Manchester for stealing a bottle of scent, and was sent to the Ardwick Reformatory. There she was visited by the woman Smith, who claimed to be her mother, and who was sometimes allowed to take her out walking. This she did on Christmas Day, 1867, and never brought the child back. The next that is known of the latter is that in the following March she was found deserted in the Liverpool Workhouse, and was taken back to the Ardwick Industrial School, where she has remained up to the present time. After Margaret Smith had been given into custody, the mother went to the reformatory and was able to give such a minute description of a burn on the little girl's back that the authorities there could have no doubt of the identity. The little girl had of course forgotten her mother. Margaret Smith has been committed by the Manchester magistrates for trial.

Literature.

Realmah. By the Author of "Friends in Council," 2 vols. London: Macmillan and Co. 1869.

The title of these volumes would seem to indicate a work of fiction; but, in fact, the book is a thoughtful political treatise on morals, human nature, politics in general, the colonial policy of England, the framework of administrative government, social arrangements, literature, art, and a variety of minor topics, but all of them of living interest. All these topics are discussed by a party of intimate friends on a visit during the holidays at the house of Mr. Milverton, in the country. These conversations show a nice discrimination of character in the participants; delicacy of wit, or rather of what the French term *esprit*; smartness of repartee, and a wealth of allusion, which make the book one of the most agreeable that can be conceived to readers of cultivated minds. A spirit of Liberalism—apart, however, from organic change—pervades the whole work, and so far certain classes of persons may disapprove; but even these cannot fail to feel—we should say will be unable to resist—the charm of the style which clothes the rather dry bones of the subjects enumerated with the living envelope which gives grace and attractiveness.

The party consists of the host—who evidently represents the author of "Realmah"—and his wife; Sir John Ellesmere, a distinguished lawyer and member of the "House," and Lady Ellesmere; Sir Arthur Godolphin, a great politician; a Mr. Mauleverer, whose creed consists of a belief in human meanness and baseness, but whose own character *au fond* falsifies his professions; and a Mr. Cranmer, an under-secretary to the Treasury, who believes in nothing except dry political economy, taxation, finance, and the estimates. The private secretary of Milverton is of the party, and confines himself to reporting the conversations. Such is the machinery which the author has chosen for evolving his views, and which works exactly to its end, unlike the usually cumbersome action of dialogue.

The circumstance which gives its title to the work is a story, or rather apologue, written by Milverton during the course of these holiday intellectual recreations, the hero of which he names *Realmah*. This tale is interesting in itself, and would be far more so if it were not written for a purpose—namely, as a vehicle for expounding the author's views respecting the policy, or rather the impolicy, as we should say, of the retention by England of the fortress of Gibraltar. *Realmah* is a pre-historic statesman, in one of the ancient Swiss Lake Cities, towards the close of the stone period. He is a young man of most profound wisdom, rises to power by inventing iron, and becomes King. Then, when in course of years he has acquired all the influence which his services to his people have conferred on him, he induces them to agree to the surrender of a stronghold which the Sheviri—the name of that nation—had long possessed on a tongue of land belonging to an adjoining State. This was the avowed aim of *Realmah*'s entire life and labours, and, having accomplished it, he died. The moral is, that if a statesman of the consummate wisdom of *Realmah* should arise in this country, he would lead England to give up the impregnable fortress of Gibraltar. A very tender love story is interwoven with the main narrative of the apologue, and serves to carry off what would otherwise be rather dull and dry. But, as Ellesmere observed, parodying Dr. Johnson's "Sir, we are not here to sell a brewery by auction, but the potentiality of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice," the party was listening not to *Realmah*'s loves, or the battles and plottings of prehistoric savages, but to the speculations of a political thinker respecting the present and future of Europe and America. Milverton, of course, is the political thinker. He is the central figure of the group; he is the teacher—his the suggestive mind; the others are the critics and chorus, so to speak. He is opposed to war—as, of course, everyone is, except those who cannot gain what they wish without attacking their neighbours. He is for giving up our military stations abroad, as being a cause of expense and a source of danger; but he does not insist, only, that attention should be given to the subject. His friends, the representative men who are with him, generally seem to acquiesce, but in the mean time determine to pronounce no opinion. It is significant, however, that there is not a military man among them; but we all know what such a person would have said to the proposals in question, coupled with a reduction of the Army and Navy by ninety per cent—so perhaps the omission is of less importance. The leading idea of Milverton is that expenditure for defence should be cut down in order that the health, education, art-instruction of the people, and the civil administration of the country generally may be improved. A favourite idea of the author is to give to the heads of departments—indoor statesmen—greater power, authority, and pay, and so to relieve the Ministers from the drudgery of official work. We do not see that any one of the holiday party objected to this as inevitably leading to a complete system of acting ministers on one hand and speaking ministers on the other, a system which many persons think experience has already sufficiently warned us against.

But the suggestions for social improvement are open to no such objection. Their only fault is that at present they seem to be impracticable, or at least very far off. Ellesmere, who hates bores and dullness (which latter he maintains is the real cause of all vice), malicious tittle-tattle and calumny, gives a grotesquely exaggerated expression to what he terms improvement. He would abolish the penny post, *dis-invent* the telegraph, silence bell-ringing (out of doors), stop the growth of great cities, build a good house, reform dress (chiefly by making women more vain), abolish lawyers and substitute notaries, reduce armies 999 per 1000, send lecturers on practical subjects throughout the country, put down bores in the House of Commons, and set up balloons; crush all jealousy (!), do away with after-dinner speeches, reduce all three-volume novels to one volume, make everybody write well, make everything in the way of recreation shorter and earlier, prevent the adulteration of food, set his face against hurry, and put down parentheses. "Goodly work, all of it!" says Sir Arthur, the great politician. Indeed! What is the guilt of the penny post except in the eyes of those pestered by begging-letter writers and duns? That is an infinitesimal evil to be set off against an almost infinitude of good. As to the telegraph, much may be said on both sides. The rest of the programme may pass—if it can. A better idea is to remove the public statues from London to the spot where it might be supposed a foreign enemy might land. "The invaders—disgusted, horrified, and amazed—would fall an easy prey to our troops, or, surviving the shock, they would carry off the statues as trophies taken from the barbarians." At any rate, the monstrosities in question would be got rid of.

A great deal of what is painfully true, and painfully felt also, is set forth in these conversations respecting the wretched house accommodation in this island. Architects are as much inclined to go on in the old routine as any other class; and houses in which the rooms are incommodiously arranged, in which the draughts from windows and doors go every way except up the chimney, and in which inside comfort is sacrificed to outward show, are the rule. This, however, may be left to the upper and middle classes to cure; they have the power to do so, if they cared about the matter and were not as generally the creatures of routine as are the architects. So long as they confine themselves to complaining, let them do so. But as regards the habitations of the poor, who are helpless, every legal obstruction or obligation ought to be removed; and many drawbacks of this kind still exist. Education, the cultivation of humaner feelings, and the abandonment of gross tastes, must play their part; but nothing enduring can be accomplished without the co-operation of time—*Crescit occulto velut arbor aeo*. Such thoughtful suggestions put forward with so much moderation on these subjects as are contained in "Realmah" cannot, however, fail to encourage wholesome growth in this direction.

In the more purely speculative and philosophical passages of the book, need we say that the author of "Friends in Council" sustains his reputation? The criticism on human nature is keen, but delicate and kindly. The party is discoursing on the question

whether the good heroes and heroines of romance are mere ideals or not. Ellesmere thinks they are, votes them an especial nuisance, and declares them apt to make us discontented with ordinary mortals. Sir Arthur is of opinion that they are examples to make people strive to become like them. But Milverton makes what we would venture to say an observation which is equally consolatory and true. No writer (he says) has been able to depict good people so good as good people really are; for the truth is, no writer's canvas is large enough to do so. It is in length of patience, and endurance, and forbearance that so much of what is good in mankind and womankind is shown; and the writer has neither time nor space enough to show forth those high qualities as they are shown in life. This is true Christian charity, as well as irresistible reasoning. It is of a piece with what the author says in another of these conversations—or makes one of his interlocutors say—quoting a French writer:—"If people knew everything of each other, charity and forgiveness would take the place of blame and condemnation."

It is not to be supposed that the matrimonial state should escape the scope of the author of *Realmah*'s animadversions. Let us sum them up by a joke put into Ellesmere's mouth. If he were to have nine wives, he said, "only, for goodness' sake, do not let them be the nine muses." They should be these:—1, the arch-concoctor of salads; 2, the sewer-on of buttons; 3, the intelligent maker of bread-sauce; 4, the player of Beethoven's music; 5, the player of common tunes, like "Old Dog Tray" and "Faddle Your Own Canoe"; 6, the consoler under difficulties; 7, the good reader; 8, the one-belonged wife, who believes her husband to be the best of men; and 9, the manager of the other wives. The meaning lies on the surface—the one wife ought to combine the gifts of the nine. O paragon!

To conclude. We cannot speak in terms of too emphatic commendation of this book. In an agreeable manner it runs over the whole range of topics of living interest which can occupy the attention of an earnest and cultivated mind. A wholesome spirit of genuine practical Christianity and of sound philanthropy—which, indeed, are the same—pervades the entire disquisition; and if there are some slight Utopianism and present impracticability in a few of the suggestions they serve but to bring into greater relief the proposals which ought to be, and which could be, adopted; while over the whole is thrown the indefinable charm of a truly scholarly style and of a talent which, we venture to think, would, if applied to dramatic composition, ensure a real success. "Realmah" will prove to be not an ephemeral production.

Geoffrey the Knight. A Tale of Chivalry of the Days of King Arthur. With Twenty-four Engravings by GUSTAVE DORE. London: T. Nelson and Son.

Here is a curious piece of King Arthur and the Round Table, which seems to have got into English via the modern French of Madame Lafon, who translated it from ancient French. Probably there are tons of such literature awaiting the grubbing of the antiquaries—as dogs worry up truffles. Mr. Vance has recently done good service in rescuing some medieval literature from oblivion; but the present effort is going further still. As a specimen of chivalry, Sir Geoffrey is perfect; he overcomes enemies human and inhuman; and finally he does not imitate Sir Galahad by being contented with the holy "grail" only (if he can get it), but he gets something which most people prefer when they are prosaic—i.e., he has his "fondest hopes realised." There it is again. Throughout a dozen centuries or more of our literature and our traditions "lovely woman" always finishes the books which men write. Geoffrey, and Arthur himself, scarcely wished for better fate. Sir Launcelot was, after all, only precipitate; and perhaps Sir Galahad in time grew tired of fighting, and preferred to bend the knee rather than to raise the crest. Here is such story in plenty; and if people can be persuaded that it is not "all true" they will enjoy it immensely. Not without some pain and serious reflection do we add a word against M. Gustave Dore. His pictures are the old, old thing, and very slovenly in execution as well as very bad in colour.

Mrs. Brown's Visits to Paris. By ARTHUR SKETCHLEY, Author of "The Brown Papers." London: Routledge and Sons.

Mrs. Brown, by books as well as by Mr. Sketchley's public exhibitions, is well known all over London. Her English adventures have had their day, although, indeed, their darkness has not yet appeared; and the French experiences form a fitting pendant to the jewel of her mishaps. Wherever she goes it is the same: the French gendarmes are no better than our own police. French drinks affect her no less than do the English; and on every occasion her front comes off, or her dress is spoiled. She is very amusing abroad. Let it not be forgotten that there is much human nature in Mrs. Brown. She is always on the side of good nature and humanity, and is nobody's enemy but her own; and we believe that, in his heart, Brown himself believes the same.

Fun. Vol. VIII. New Series. London: Fun Office, Fleet-street.

We have before us the eighth volume of the new series of our faceted contemporary *Fun*; and a glance over its pages brings back to memory many a pleasing chuckle or downright hearty guffaw we had enjoyed as the periodical week by week reached our hands. It is agreeable thus to recall past merriment, and we can assure those who buy the new volume that, if they are not already subscribers to Mr. Hood's paper, they will be tempted to become so for the future. All the good features of the publication in previous volumes are retained, and one or two, to which we took the liberty of objecting when last noticing the work, have been either abandoned altogether or greatly modified. Amid so much that is commendable, it would be invidious to make mention of special contributions; so we simply say to all who want to be amused, and amused cheaply and wholesomely, "Buy *Fun*, and your desire will be gratified."

BRIERLY HILL, MARCH 1869.

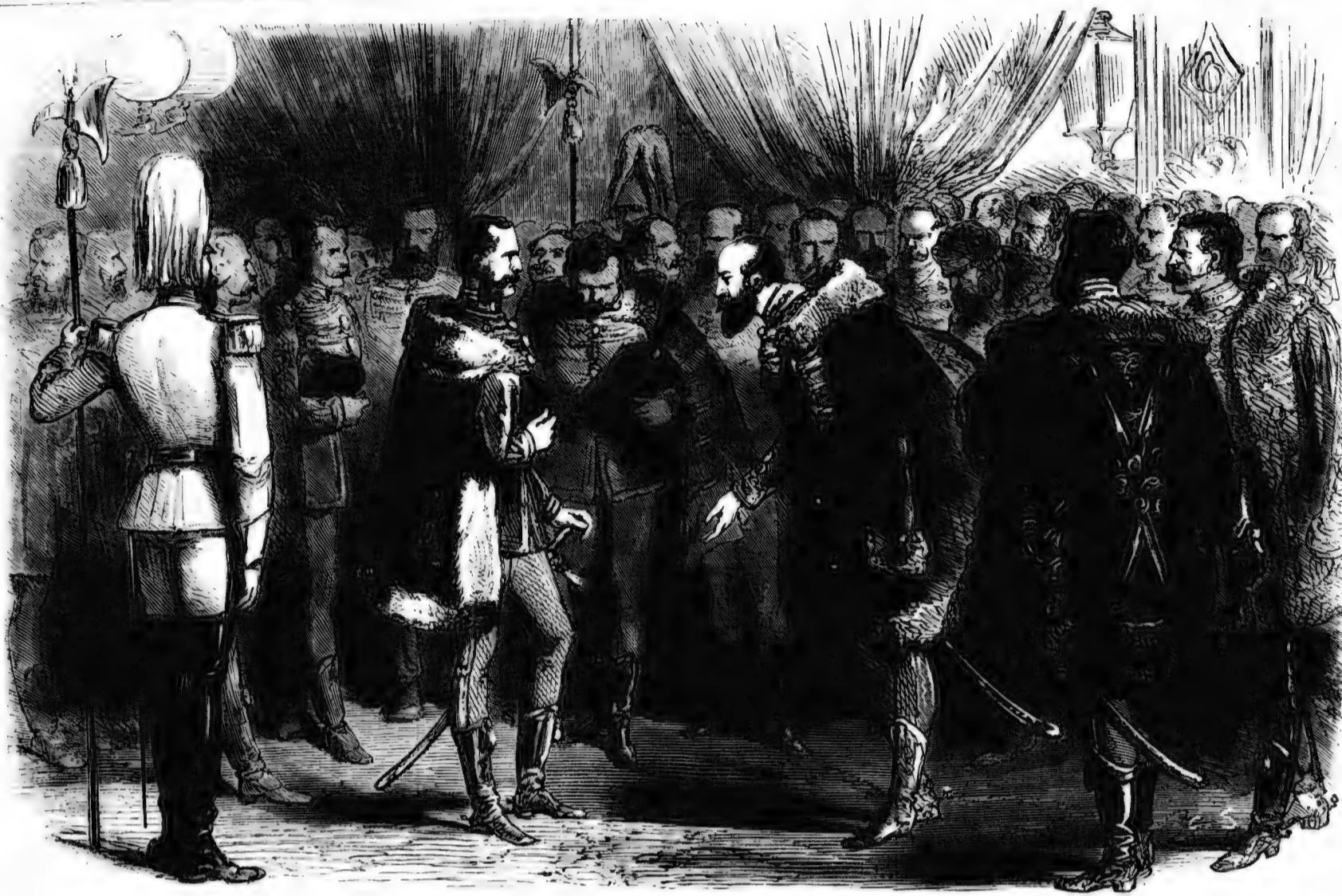
Round the pit-mouth waiting—
Waiting but to hear
Fathers, brothers, cousins
Never will re-appear;
What can be the torture
Of those around the wheel
To the lingering agony
The buried miners feel?
Is religion darker
In the working lands,
Where beyond the light of day
Toll the willing hands?

Doomed for days to linger,
Starved in want and pain,
Did they curse their wretched life,
Take God's name in vain?
When the darkness that is felt
Brought them nearer death,
What did ignorance suggest
To their latest breath?
"May Heaven protect our widows!
God make their future bright!
If all is dark around us
In Heaven there is light."

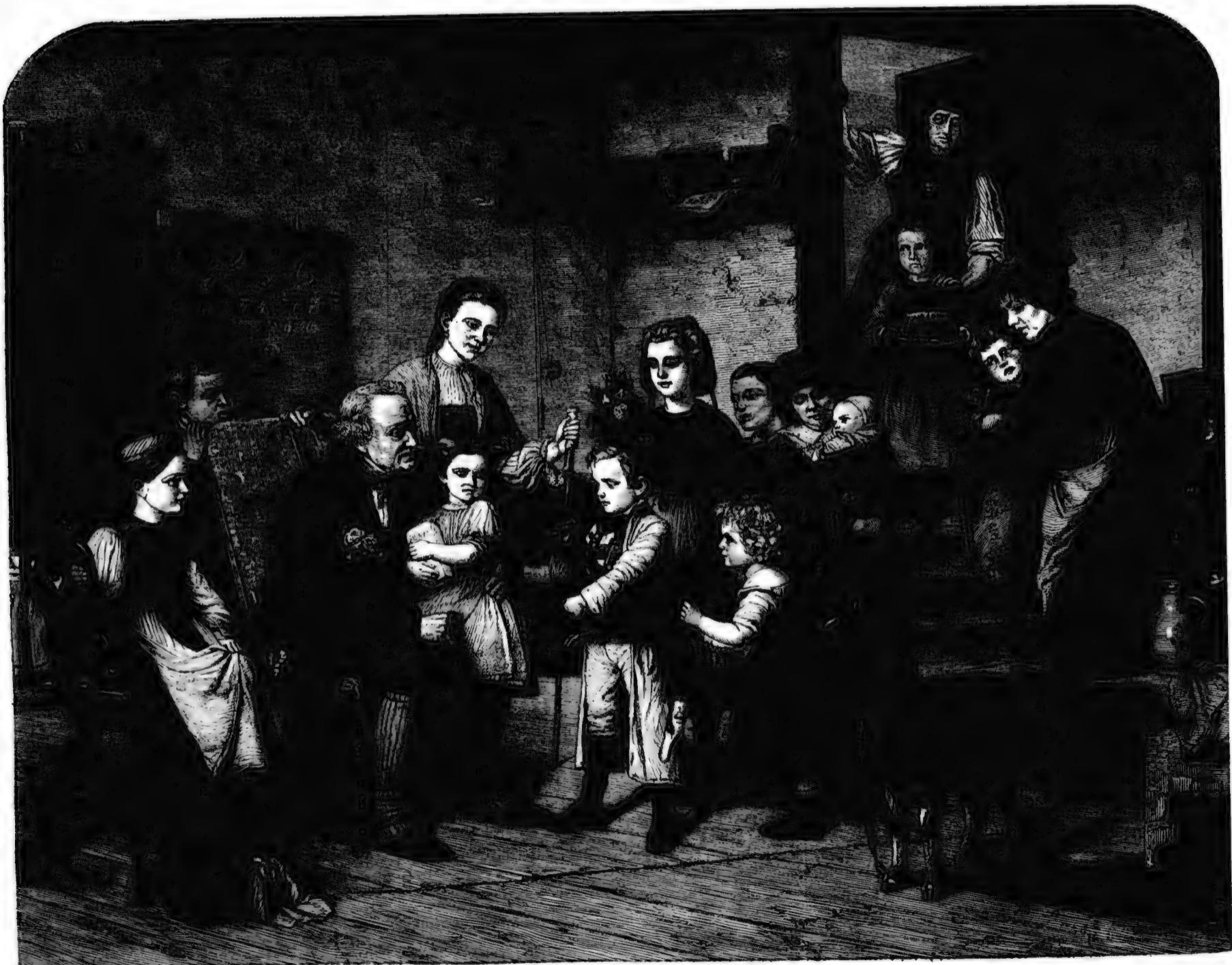
Tomahawk.

ARTEMUS WARD'S LECTURE.—At last the famous "lecture" delivered by poor Artemus Ward at the Egyptian Hall has been got ready for simultaneous publication in London and New York. Mr. T. W. Robertson, the eminent dramatist, has written an introduction to his friend's book; and the panoramas, which the humourist used to criticise in his own strangely merry way, will supply thirty-six full-page illustrations to the work. A curious attempt has been made in the printing to represent, by spacings and types of different sizes, the peculiarities of the lecturer's voice. The book will be uniform in appearance with Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Bob Ballads."

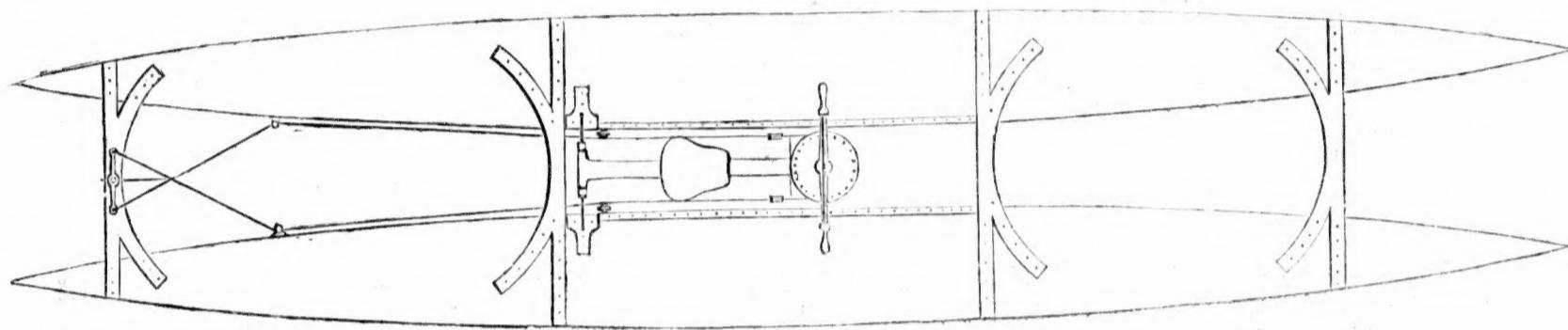
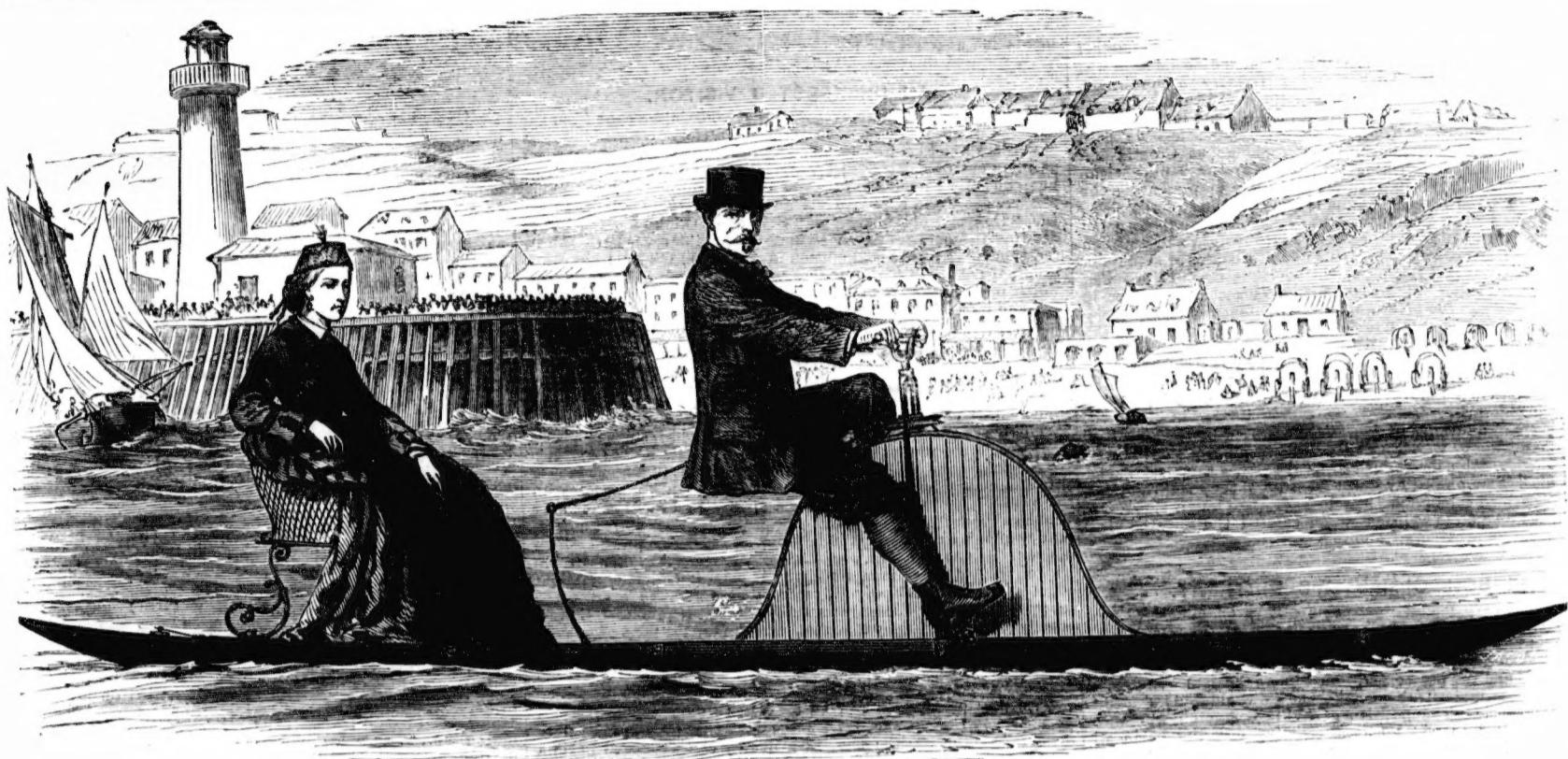
BEGGARS AND THEIR BABIES.—At the Blackburn Police Court, last Saturday, a woman named Ellen Ward was charged before the borough magistrates with stealing a child named May Woods, the daughter of Bill Woods, of Queen-street, Blackburn. The prisoner is a woman who has recently fallen into dissolute habits; and on Good Friday, being short of money, she said to the mother of the child, whom she knew, that if she would lend her her child for a short time, she would make some money. The mother protested against this, but on Friday afternoon the child was missed from its mother's house, and could not be found. It was unable to walk, and suspicion fell upon the prisoner. The police were communicated with, and the prisoner was found with two children—babies—one the daughter of Woods, and another the parents of which are not known. The prisoner represented herself to be a poor woman with twins, and, whilst telling pitiful tales, was soliciting alms. She did not deny the charge, and was committed to prison.



RECEPTION OF THE EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH AT AGRAM.



THE SCHOOLMASTER'S BIRTHDAY.



A NAUTICAL VELOCIPED.



"AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE."

VISIT OF THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA TO AGRAM.

THE recent journey of the Emperor of Austria to the different provinces of Croatia, on his way to Agram, is but a continuation of his visits to those portions of the empire where consolidation was most required. Now that he has united Hungary to the throne, he judiciously includes the rest of the old kingdom once incorporated with the Hungarian provinces in the same Royal obligation which has won the suffrages of the Magyar people. To those of us—and we are many—who know little about Croatia and Dalmatia, except from the geography books of our youth, where we see pictures of people in picturesque costumes representing the inhabitants of those regions, Agram is almost an unexplored place, and yet is one of the principal towns of remoter Europe, situated on a fine river, which divides the country into eastern and southern divisions, the latter covered with three gigantic chains of mountain, known as the Great and Little Capella, continuations of the Julian Alps, and with a culminating peak (*Velika Viozochicza*) 4100 ft. in height. Varying in temperature from the intense cold and boisterous winds of the mountain region to the milder air of the fertile plains and valleys lying nearer to the shores of the Adriatic, Croatia is a splendid country of undeveloped resources, but it may be hoped that the visit of the Emperor will help to secure to the people that tranquillity which is the forerunner of a worthy activity and enterprise.

At all events, the people of Agram have proved by the reception given to his Majesty that they regard their union with Hungary as a part of the nationality which owns allegiance to Austria. The Emperor was accompanied by Baron Beust, and the manifestations of rejoicing which celebrated their journey were but a repetition of the fêtes and public welcome which saluted the Imperial visit to the Hungarian provinces.

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S BIRTHDAY.

IN those primitive places where competitive examinations are, if not altogether unknown, at all events devoid of the terrors that too often harass the candidates for the office of an instructor of youth, it is sometimes the case that payment for "schooling" is made in kind, and the pedagogue, like some ministers of religion in America, takes out in "dry goods" what he would find it difficult to recover in specie. The position of a village domine who finds himself compelled to adopt this alternative may not be in all respects enviable; but he at least has the satisfaction of knowing how far his efforts are appreciated by the opportunity afforded to his clients for a little surplausage by way of compliment. Probably there may be no such example now in England as a master taking potatoes or garden stuff in exchange for his labour in imparting the rudiments of knowledge, or a ham in discharge of his account for teaching the mother tongue. If there be any such simple experience, it will perhaps be found at those Cumberland schools, of one of which there is such a capital picture in the Dudley Gallery this year. Whether the practice has altogether died out or not, however, it may be hoped that there are numerous instances in which people of a homely kindness regard the schoolmaster as their children's friend, and send him an occasional token of their good wishes. There is a pretty custom in the German schools of some of those old-world towns of which we have lately been writing, and it affords the subject for our illustration. On the schoolmaster's birthday, pupils, and of course parents also, take the opportunity of cheering the worthy man—who, perhaps, excites their admiration when they wonder "how one small head can hold so much"—by sending presents not altogether unacceptable and, probably, suggested by the scholars, who shrewdly guess the most fitting replenishments in domestic economy for the teacher's household. Except by such a supposition, one can hardly account for such appropriate offerings as the "bright chanticleer," whose business it will be to "proclaim the morn" to reluctant pupa. Then there is that imperial-looking pipe, and, as though the gift had been a matter of friendly consultation between neighbours, the little pet seated on the good man's knee has already made her offering in the shape of a half pound of Varinas; the stout and well-chosen walking-stick and that anniversary-cake that is just coming in at the door are more commonplace, perhaps, but all are welcome, like the flowers that are brought in profusion, as showing that love and confidence between teacher and pupils which will surely, if he should live to be a hundred, bring "many happy returns of the day!"

AQUATIC VELOCIPEDES.

WHAT are we coming to next? What fresh readaptation of an old invention will come forward to claim the merit of originality? All the world—by which, of course, must be understood the few hundred people of fashion who constitute the only world worth mentioning—has been moved to its depths by the introduction of velocipedes; a special branch of commerce and manufacture has been developed by them; express laws have been made for their regulation in the public streets, lest, like crinoline, they should claim too many victims; and we shall doubtless soon hear that "the faculty"—the medical profession—are recommending them as "a real blessing to mothers," "a boon to the dyspeptic," or a truly invigorating substitute for walking. They will quite supersede the old panacea of horse exercise, and patients who have hitherto been recommended to try a change of air will be committed to an hour before breakfast on the locomotive treadwheel. Before we are well aware of all that may be involved in this re-introduction of a locomotive engine which our great-grandfathers abandoned, we are plunged into still profounder depths of speculation by an altogether new application of the velocipedal principle. Why walk? says the anti-pedestrian, to whom four miles an hour gives a little too much time to look about him. Why row? says the Leander whose strength is in his legs, and who reads with concern the accounts of University struggles. It is with the legs and not with the wings that the swan so gracefully propels itself. Keep your arms for the aerial machines with which we shall shortly complete our means of transport, and let those who like it make galley-slaves of themselves and propel a boat by the old-fashioned method. Here is the new unsubmersible aquatic velocipede ready to your hands—that is to say, to your feet. It is at once a wherry, a punt, a dingey, a gig, a pleasure-barge, and a life-boat. Fifteen years ago this admirable machine was nearly ready for public adoption, but the inventor (M. De la Rue), fearing an infringement of his patent before he had made the invention complete, and thinking the time was not quite ripe for its introduction, has waited to bring forward its claims. What its claims are, may be best explained by our Engraving. The motive power is a wheel furnished with blades or flanges, and moved by pedals, and the vessel itself is composed of two or three canoes resembling in shape the *pirogue* of the Indian, and perfectly joined together. Between these boats are placed one, two, or four, wheels, according to the power and consequent speed to be attained. The aquatic velocipede is propelled with comparatively little fatigue, as it is furnished with a crank so adjusted that it preserves the equilibrium besides adding to the force of the voyager. For sea service the "unsubmersible" is provided with a second rudder, to be worked in the same way as the other, so as to give additional guiding power, since it will receive more than one rower, and may be fitted with several pairs of wheels, while in favourable winds a lateen sail may be added to the propelling power. These are the descriptions applied to it by the introducer; and, as he adds that steam-power may be applied if desired, we cannot quite see in what it differs in principle from the *Wianan*'s yacht, except in its more temporary character; while most of us with a few years' acquaintance with the Thames will remember a kind of canoe worked by hand or foot paddles which sometimes made its appearance at rowing-matches or other river festivals. The aquatic velocipede, however, is probably devised to adapt the recent improvements in boat building and velocipedal machinery to a very pleasant and healthful recreation, and we can only advise our readers to commence practising

on water where they will be exposed to little danger from collision with other vessels, and least risk of sinking until the "unsubmersible" character of the new vessel is well established.

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR.

DON'T you, dear reader, ever wish that you could escape from the artificial impositions of what is called society? Shouldn't you sometimes like to clap your hands and shout at an evening party? or jump out of a carriage; or, what is better, have somebody else jump out of a carriage to give you a friendly greeting? or be able to say, openly and boldly, when an old acquaintance calls to see you, "Do stay, old fellow," or "Pray don't think of going away, dear (as the case may be, masculine or feminine, on both sides), for, though I've only cold mutton in the house, I'll send out for a couple of pounds of pork sausages or a rump steak and a shilling's-worth of crumpets for tea"? Wouldn't you like to be able to say this and mean it, and know that your guest knew that you meant it, and would reply, "Go! I should think not. I've come to spend the afternoon, if you haven't an engagement; and if you have, nothing's easier than for me to go in and see Jenkins (or Miss Jenkins), and take in a knuckle of ham with me, in case it's a short day with them, but of course only to be produced with extreme discretion, in case J. should think I doubted of hospitality"?

There are old-fashioned people living in old-fashioned places still, mind you, who deal with each other in this spirit; and it's wonderful what a deal of enjoyment they get out of a quiet life—a life that many folk would think dull, and even vulgar (Heaven help them!), and affect to look down upon with a scorn that never troubles those for whom it is intended, because they don't know it, and wouldn't understand it if they did. Now, not to preach a long sermon from a short text, our Illustration, which is taken from a sketch in that marvellous, old-fashioned place (and among a quaint kind of people), full of wild scenery and strange beauty, the country near the Riesengebirge, between Bohemia and Silesia, suggested a few "happy thoughts," which perhaps none of us need be the worse for.

THE OPERA.

THE first performances of an operatic season are never particularly interesting, except from the fact that they are the first. At dramatic theatres the manager generally endeavours to begin a new season with a new work; but the opening of the Royal Italian Opera is in itself sufficient novelty and sufficient attraction. Accordingly, the united managers contented themselves with announcing for the first night "Norma," represented by Mdlle. Titiens as the heroine and Signor Mongini as Pollio. Thursday's opera was "Rigoletto," with Mdlle. Vanzini, Signor Mongini, and Mr. Santley in the principal parts; and to-night (Saturday) "Fidelio" is to be performed, with Mdlle. Titiens, as a matter of course, in the part of Leonora.

The directors of the united Operas could not be expected to get well into their campaign without some preliminary troubles. They really seemed, to judge by their programme, to have engaged all the singers of Europe who were worth engaging. Of the singers whose merits are quite familiar to the London public, Madame Trebelli had alone been forgotten, though it would really have been a novelty to the Royal Italian Opera subscribers to have heard contralto and mezzo-soprano parts well sung. However, the mysteries of operatic management are not to be penetrated by the outside public. The engagement of one singer often means the engagement of two singers; while, on the other hand, the engagement of one particular singer may signify the consequent refusal of some other singers to join the company. Having seen the happy family, we can believe in the possibility of cats and doves, lambs and tigresses, living peacefully together; but we find it hard to credit the possibility of four prima donnas singing at the same theatre without raising their voices otherwise than in harmony. And we certainly cannot blame them. At a liberally-provided table, where there is enough for three, there may be plenty for four; but at an opera-house where there are to be only four performances a week, and in operas which as a rule contain but one prima donna part, there cannot be enough for four prima donnas.

It was with no particular feeling of astonishment, then, that we read last week the letter from Mdlle. Nilsson in the *Times*, explaining that in consequence of the proper steps not having been taken by the combined management for securing the right of representing M. Ambroise Thomas's "Hamlet," and for other reasons, she must decline to appear this season at the Royal Italian Opera. For our own part, we do not regret in the least the opportunity of hearing the opera "Hamlet" in London; but we grieve very much at the thought of not hearing Mdlle. Nilsson. This charming singer not only refuses to appear at the theatre now to be directed by Mr. Mapleson, in conjunction with Mr. Gye; but she takes leave of him by telling him a few words of plain truth—which is seldom agreeable. "You cannot fail to appreciate," says the sentimental Lucia, the pathetic Margherita, "the difficulties arising from the shortness of a London season and the numerous artists composing your troupe, some of whom have claims to parts specified in my engagement, and which, without sufficient precautions, must lead to a confusion to which I have a strong objection to be a party; and, anxious as I have shown myself to aid you, I cannot consent to a departure from the letter and the spirit of the engagement except on the reasonable conditions to which formerly you did not object. Your associate, however, appears to be of a contrary opinion, and I can well understand how very difficult it would be for you to gainsay what he decides." It is not very likely that with four prima donnas engaged—Madame Patti, Mdlle. Lucca, Mdlle. Titiens, and Mdlle. Nilsson—the directors would take the needless trouble, not to mention expense, of bringing out M. Ambroise Thomas's opera. But this is a question of operatic politics which does not concern us. As we said before, to a subscriber one opera with the attractions of two concentrated therat is better than two separate establishments; but for the public in general two operas are, undoubtedly, better than one, and it is already a little more certain than it was before that in a short time—if not this season, next season; if not next season, the season afterwards—we shall have two operas again. Mr. Costa and his adjoint, M. Sainton, have seceded from the Royal Italian Opera, and are, probably, already taking steps towards the establishment of an opera-house which shall be to the Royal Italian what the Royal Italian was to Her Majesty's Theatre. The eminent talent of Mdlle. Nilsson is plainly available for such a speculation.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE broke out in Drury-lane, on Tuesday morning, on the premises of Messrs. Jeaks and Co., engineers. Its origin is unknown. The pattern-shop, containing many valuable tools, was burnt, and several of the adjacent buildings were placed in great danger.

UNWISE COLONIAL POLICY.—The able work by Mr. C. W. Dilke, M.P., entitled "Greater Britain," boldly exposes the folly of the policy still pursued by this country, burdened with pauperism as it is, in paying millions a year for troops to guard rich colonies who will not contribute any proportionate share themselves, who would not fight for the mother country in time of war, and who now laugh, at her expense. Says Mr. Dilke:—"Canada is in all ways the most flagrant case. She makes no contribution towards the cost; she relies mainly on us to defend a frontier of 4000 miles, and she excludes our goods by prohibitory duties at her ports." (About 30 per cent duty on British goods.) As to the Australian colonies, we spend millions merely to amuse them with military reviews. Mr. Dilke adds:—"The fear of conquest of the Australian colonies if we left them to themselves is, on the face of it, ridiculous." Neither France nor Britain could conquer the nearer American colonies, when peopled by only a million and a half. In case of war, Britain would either withdraw her colonial troops, or they would be worse than useless—as, indeed, they are at present. Mr. Dilke writes:—"The present system weakens us and them—us, by taxes and by the withdrawal of our men and ships; the colonies, by preventing the development of that self-reliance which is requisite to form a nation's greatness." The members of the new Parliament are bound, in duty to their over-taxed constituents, to resist the further continuance of these costly and useless colonial armaments.

A ROMANCE OF EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells the following story of a marriage which recently took place in the French capital:—

"Mrs. Cavendish Baker was left a widow with three children, and a handsome small fortune, at the age of about forty. She is good-looking, well-educated, and of a generous, merry disposition. Belonging to the most respectable of all classes, the trading class, but often the most absurd of all classes about social relations, pretensions, and stupid pride, Mrs. Baker was, and perhaps is, only happy in the society of people who have some titles or distinctions, or enjoyed what she called of 'aristocratic associations.' When Baker was alive Mrs. Cavendish B. (she gave herself this first name) used to fill her drawing-room with Polish Counts, German Barons, and other foreign nobility, to some of whom she had lent money, although Baker knew nothing about that. She is not wicked, not bad; quite the contrary; but simply a lady snob.

"Mrs. Cavendish Baker came over to Paris some few years ago, and put up at a sort of superior boarding-house, kept by an Italian 'Countess,' who was descended from the Medici, and related in some way to the famous family of Napoleon III. Mrs. C. B. used to say that if she were rich enough the Countess should not keep a *pension* another day, 'but she was always the lady, as one could see!' The 'Countess' was nothing more nor less than a clever woman of romantic habits, who was no longer young and beautiful, and was therefore a widow of necessity. She was wonderfully sharp about all games at cards, and used to get people together who would play pretty high. The Countess did a little also in matrimonial and other alliances. Now, when Mrs. Cavendish Baker arrived at the elegant house of the Countess Spoleto with two of her children (Henry, the eldest, was seventeen, and too old to bring to Paris), she told all her affairs to her titled landlady, for, as she said, you may always trust your secrets to a person of good birth; thus the Countess knew all about her lodger's income and family affairs. It so happened that the Countess thought of old Major Mersy, who had not paid his bill for want of funds, and was not likely to pay, and who once said to her 'Cher dame, why not get me one of your rich English ladies, and our accounts shall be settled on any terms you like?' But the right lady had hitherto not turned up, and the Major was obliged to leave the *pension*, take a series of monthly dining tickets at a common restaurant, and live at cafés, playing at dominoes with poor old bankrupt idlers like himself. He was surprised one day to get a letter from his old Italian landlady, asking him to come and dine at the family table, well dressed, and wearing his Legion of Honour star. The Countess had prepared all. She told Mrs. Cavendish Baker the Major was a poor member of one of the most aristocratic families of France (he honourably rose from the ranks; his father was a field labourer). The Major was, said the Countess, a constant guest at the Tuilleries, and the welcomed in all the fashionable salons of Paris. Poor old man! he really passed his evenings at a miserable café with a glass of sugar-and-water, playing dominoes, or with dirty greasy cards. The Major, like a cautious debtor, went to his old landlady before the day of the invitation, and finding what it was all about, he got a new wig on credit, and borrowed some smart evening dress, gloves, &c. If I were writing a romance, many pages might be occupied with the Major's bold love-making, the scheming of the Countess, and the folly of Mrs. Cavendish Baker. How the Major told his campaign in Algeria; his adventures with Louis Napoleon; all about the family estates he had been cheated out of; his disgust with the world, and desire to pass his last days in tranquil and domestic circles, enlivened only by a few evenings at Court and such fashionable salons as he was obliged to attend from association and position. . . . What a letter that was! Mrs. C. B. ere long, wrote to her trustees and guardians . . . ! She was about to find a protector for her children and herself; a gentleman, a real gentleman, a personal friend of Napoleon III. The dear girls would be introduced into the highest Parisian society. The Major, thank Heaven! was not young, but he was a man of heart. He would hear nothing about money matters, asked nothing and said nothing about his own fortune, which was a proof of a sensitive delicacy peculiar to a real gentleman. She was making an alliance more for the children than herself, &c. How could this clever, good, educated woman have fallen into so obvious a trap? One falls back on the old problem—What will not a British widow do abroad? Dear English ladies, why do you come amongst us Parisians widowed and with money? We are bad, designing, selfish people. The trustees of Mrs. B. were furious; of course they were. But they did not prevent the marriage of Mrs. Cavendish Baker with Major Mersy. And what did the Major do? 1. The Italian Countess had great difficulty in getting her share of the plunder. 2. The Major took his English wife to a small town in the environs of Paris, away from all friends and amusement; shut her up, in fact. 3. He came to Paris daily, and amused himself in his own way. 4. He took the quarterly payments of his wife's income and doled her out a few francs as a favour. 5. He invited only his French friends to his house, and kept her away. Broken-hearted and miserable, the unhappy Englishwoman pensioned him off eventually to escape from her prison. This is the history, ladies and gentlemen—a true story—one of the many senseless marriages of Englishwomen with foreigners; and yet this sort of sad comedy will be played over and over again until the Rev. Dr. Cumming's prophecies are verified and the great globe itself melt, &c."

THE COUNCIL OF KING'S COLLEGE, London, have formally announced that they are ready to receive applications from gentlemen desirous of offering themselves as candidates for the Professorship of Mathematics, about to become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Prebendary T. G. Hall, M.A.

THE MEN AND BOYS rescued from the Earl of Dudley's pit at Brierley Hill attended the church of the district on Sunday, to give public thanks to God for their deliverance. They occupied seats in the centre of the church, and near them sat the men who had been instrumental in their rescue. The church was crowded. The Rector of the parish preached an appropriate sermon; and the service was throughout of a most impressive character.

THE COLLIERY DISPUTES in South Yorkshire are extending, and there are not wanting indications of the determination of the masters to check, as far as is possible, the power of the unions. At present there are nine collieries standing, in which the masters refuse to treat with the men except upon the principle of non-connection with the union. These are the Denaby Main, the Tinsley Park and Manor, the Thorncroft and Chapel-town, the Wharncliffe Silkstone, the Edmund's Main, and the Swain Main. There are from 1500 to 2000 men out of employment in consequence of the unhappy dispute.

POWER OF VOLUNTARYISM.—The annual reports of Surrey Chapel and its institutions were recently presented at a public meeting of the subscribers. It appeared that there were 1326 communicants, and that the amount raised at the sacramental offertory for the poor exceeded £300. The Benevolent Society, for aiding the sick at their own homes, irrespective of creed, had relieved 650 cases, and expended £357. For thirteen Sunday-schools, in which nearly 6000 children were taught by 500 teachers, £679 had been raised. Six day and evening schools, in which nearly 1000 children are taught, received £249. An industrial girls' school received £70. There is a missionary specially for the working-men of South London, for the carrying on of whose varied operations £213 had been contributed. An auxiliary to the London City Mission had received £167, three agents being at work in the district. The Christian Instruction Society holds upwards of twenty services weekly amongst the poor, visiting many of the lodging-houses and ministering to beggars, costermongers, tramps, &c. The treasurer acknowledged upwards of £100. One temperance society received £40. It holds frequent meetings, and in connection with 10,000 persons had signed the pledge during fourteen years. The Bible Society raised £53; the Tract Society, £63; the Dorcas and Female Clothing Societies, £66. For foreign missions £144 had been contributed, and (with the aid of some friends outside) £330 had been added to the fund being raised in view of the expiration of the lease. Upwards of £870 had been contributed for the incidental expenses of worship, including the salary of an assistant minister. Thus, nearly £4000 had been raised, in addition to the support of their pastor, by a congregation composed chiefly of persons in humble life, for the change in the neighbourhood has taken away the suburbs nearly all others. What, then, may not the wealthy do for a cause they value when taught to rely on their own resources?

HORRORS ON BOARD AN EMIGRANT-SHIP.

THE New York papers are full of a tale of horror in which the English public are as much interested as the public of America. An emigrant-ship left Liverpool on Dec. 13 last, and anchored in New York harbour on March 8. She sailed with 116 passengers, all poor emigrants who went in the steerage; and a crew, of which the captain said he shipped forty men for the passage, who came on board with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and only seven of whom had ever been to sea before. The voyage, with an over-crowded steerage and an inefficient crew, was one of the most fearful on record. The weather was frightfully stormy, and fever and diarrhoea set in among the unhappy passengers. Of the 186 people on board, only ninety-six were well when the ship arrived in quarantine; eighteen had died, and the rest, including the captain and the mate, were in various stages of illness. The story told by the passengers is almost incredible, even though many of the statements are made on oath. One witness, an English mechanic, declared that during one week of his voyage he had but two quarts of meal for his entire food; that the carpenter and boatswain repeatedly beat the passengers; and that a dying sailor was dragged on to deck with a rope, kicked by a cabin-boy to make him rouse to work, but as he could not work, left half-naked on deck till someone in pity dragged him to the hospital to die. Another passenger gave evidence that his food was given him uncooked, and that, hungry as he was, he had thrown it overboard rather than be seen not to eat it; and that the most hideous brutality was exhibited by some of the crew towards any passengers who offended them or complained. In fact, the picture which has been drawn before the Emigration Commissioners of New York, who are prosecuting the authorities of the vessel, is one of a scene of piled-up horrors such as only the stories of plagues and pestilences can equal. The stormy sea, the tempestuous wind, the horrible passions which made the ship a hell, and brooding over all the pestilence which dirt, and terror, and starvation breed, make up a picture of torment such as Dante might have delighted to describe and Gustave Doré to paint. No wonder that eighteen died and several became insane on landing. The wonder is that out of such a floating Lazar-house as that which these poor emigrants had occupied for nearly three months so many as even half reached the end of their journey alive and well.

POLICE.

A FOREIGN IMPOSTOR.—Charles Reicenstein, described on the police-sheet as of 8, Granville-terrace, Folkestone, and who is stated to have represented himself as C. E. von Raspe, Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E.; Captain Shaw; and Lieutenant-Colonel Count von Reicenstein, a native of Prussia, about forty-five years of age, was brought up for re-examination before Mr. Selfe, at Westminster Police Court, on Monday, charged with fraud. Sergeant Reimers, the intelligent German detective who apprehended the prisoner, said that since the accused had been remanded he had received fifteen communications from Leamington, Oxford, Dover, Folkestone, Weymouth, Liverpool, Lowestoft, Grimsby, and elsewhere, complaining of him. There were other charges, but he had not had time to investigate them. In one now about to be brought forward, prisoner had so ingratiated himself with a lady, the widow of an officer in the Army, that she introduced him to her solicitor in Gray's Inn, whom prisoner consulted as to the disposal of £16,000, representing that he must immediately start for Abyssinia, whither he had been commanded to repair by the King of Prussia. Voluminous deeds were prepared, but all that was afterwards heard of the prisoner was his referring tradesmen to the solicitor for vouchers of respectability. Mr. Silvester, of 76, Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, proved that in March, 1868, prisoner obtained a quantity of hosiery from him for which he never paid. In reply to questions from the magistrate it transpired that the lady (the officer's widow) was well known as a customer at the shop, and introduced prisoner, whom she called "Count," no doubt believing him to be a person of that title. Prisoner had the goods upon credit and then ran away. Mr. Selfe asked if the sergeant was ready with any other charge. A foreman from Stagg's, in St. James's-street, proved that prisoner obtained a quantity of new clothes in October last. They believed they were supplying a German Count. In that, as in the previous case, it appeared that he had obtained credit upon the influence of another person. He had fastened himself upon Major Ross, a well-known customer, who had introduced him to the shop. Prisoner never paid for the clothes. Mr. Selfe did not think any prosecution could be sustained upon either of these cases. Prisoner appeared to be a gentleman living by his wits, but still might not be subject to the criminal law. Prisoner set up that he had been very unfortunate by the failure of a bank. Mr. Selfe—What is your name? Reicenstein, Mr. Selfe—And are you a Count? Prisoner—I wish to explain that by and by. In the course of the production of some papers prisoner admitted that an invitation from the mess of the Royal Artillery found in his possession was a sham. He also admitted that he was a married man, although he was courting a lady of title. He was further remanded until Friday for other complainants to attend.

BURGLARY AT MR. GLADSTONE'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.—At Bow-street, last Saturday, William Roberts was charged with entering the house No. 10, Downing-street, and stealing a quantity of wearing apparel. The house is the residence of Mr. Algernon West, private secretary to the Prime Minister. On Saturday afternoon the housemaid, Anne Budd, met the prisoner on the third floor and asked him what business he had there. He said he was looking for men who were cleaning the windows. She told him there were no such persons in the house. She then went down stairs and unlocked the door of Mrs. West's bed-room to admit a man who was putting on locks in the house. After this she was engaged a few minutes in another part of the house, and then, finding that the prisoner did not come down, she went and looked for him, and found him coming out of Mrs. West's

room with something thick round his waist. He ran down stairs, quickening his pace when she called to him to stop. She followed and caught him as he was making his escape by the kitchen door, which opens into the street. She seized him by the collar, took from him a sealskin jacket and two shawls, which he had wound round his waist, and detained him till the butler came to her assistance. A policeman, Cephas Gladdis, A 336, was called in, and the prisoner was given into his custody. It was afterwards found that ten dresses (two silk, one satin, and seven muslin) had been taken from a box in Mrs. West's room and made up into a bundle, but had been left on the floor, the prisoner being probably alarmed by the approaching footsteps of the housemaid. The prisoner was remanded.

THREATENING AN EMPLOYER.—At Worship-street, on Monday, William White, 38, chairmaker, and Thomas Mills, 25, a carver, were charged before Mr. Newton with having, in contravention of the 26th and 27th Victoria, cap. 96, sec. 27, conspired with others not in custody to defraud Mr. John Newman, chair and sofa manufacturer, of Wells-street, Hackney, of £30, by intimidation. Mr. Beard, solicitor, was for the prosecution. From the evidence it appeared that in January last a fire broke out in the prosecutor's workshops, in Myrtle-street, Hoxton, resulting in the total destruction of the property, and also of the workmen's tools. In order to compensate for the loss which the men had sustained, the prosecutor started a subscription for their benefit, heading it at the outset with a donation of £20. On the morning of Friday last the prisoners, who were among the sufferers by the fire, and who had been retained in his employment, came to the prosecutor and began to abuse him. The latter said that he had no time to lose, and that they had better return to their work; but the prisoners said that they did not want to work, that they had made up their minds to ruin him, and that unless he paid them £30 down they would swear that he had instructed them to set fire to his premises and would get a charge of arson preferred against him. The prosecutor, temporising, said that he would think over the matter and speak to them on the next day, and the prisoners left. The prosecutor immediately went to the office of Mr. Beard, and, acting upon the advice of the latter, returned to the shop, contrived to conceal behind a bench a friend who could hear all that was said, and then proceeded to hold some conversation with the prisoners respecting their threat on the previous day. There were three others present, each of whom was concerned in the matter. The prosecutor asked them if, after giving them the £30, they would go away and not say anything against him. White replied in the affirmative, and one of the men not yet apprehended added, "We will not concoct anything more." The prosecutor turned round, called out the concealed listener, and found that he had heard all the conversation. The prisoners, who became very abusive and riotous on finding that they had been trapped, were then given into custody. The others effected their escape. Mr. Newton granted a remand, and issued warrants for the apprehension of the other men.

ILLEGAL FAIR.—A showman named Sweetlove appeared at the Thames Police Court, on Monday, in answer to a summons taken out against him in the morning by the police, charging him with holding a fair on a piece of ground in St. Paul's-road, Bow-common. The proceedings were taken under an Act passed last Session for the prevention of the holding of unlawful fairs within the metropolitan police district. The defendant's solicitor contended that the defendant was not holding any fair. Any Englishman the owner of a piece of ground had a right to admit whom he liked into it, and to charge for admission. The amusements were very similar to those provided for the people at the Crystal Palace during the Easter holidays, and, if the Bench declared it illegal, there would, for the same reason, be nothing to prevent the closing of the Crystal Palace and grounds. Mr. Benson confessed that there was a good deal in this argument, but, he said, he shrank from the responsibility of allowing the fair to continue. As this was the first case of the kind, he would order that printed notices declaring the fair unlawful be issued at twelve o'clock at noon that day, and that would enable the defendant to remove everything off the grounds before sunset.

EXTENSIVE SMUGGLING AND HEAVY FINES.—At Southwark, on Tuesday, Daniel Siborne and Richard Walker, seamen belonging to the steamship Trident, sailing between the port of London and Hamburg, were placed at the bar before Mr. Burcham for final examination, charged with unlawfully unshipping 38 lbs. weight of foreign manufactured tobacco for the purpose of defrauding her Majesty's revenue. Mr. Beverley, jun., prosecuted on behalf of the Customs authorities. It appeared from the evidence of Inspector Varney, of the Thames Police, that on Saturday morning last he was on duty off Horsleydown in the police-galley, when he saw the prisoners leave the steam-ship Trident, which had recently arrived from Hamburg, and, having placed something in the boat, they rowed towards Mill-stairs. Witness pursued them, and having pulled alongside, asked them what they had in their boat. They replied "Nothing." Witness then overhauled it, and found a rope fixed to the gunwale, and on getting hold of it found several packets attached to it submerged in the water. He pulled them out, and found each of them to contain foreign manufactured tobacco, weighing, in all, 38 lbs. He took them into custody, and afterwards gave information to the Customs authorities. In answer to the charge, the prisoners admitted the tobacco to belong to them. They hoped, however, his Worship would be merciful to them, as it was their first offence. Mr. Burcham told them that the Act of Parliament gave him no alternative but to fine each of them £100, and, in default of payment, commit them for six months. If they wished for any mitigation they must memorialise the Board of Customs.

BEAR LEADERS.—At Clerkenwell, on Wednesday, two Frenchmen, who gave the names of Gambier Espard and Jules Moret, were charged with causing an obstruction in the carriage-way in College-place, Camden Town, by exhibiting a bear

to the danger of the foot-passengers. The police stated that the prisoners were causing a large bear they had with them to perform in the open streets, and that caused a mob of between 800 and 900 people to assemble. The thoroughfare was obstructed. The bear while performing groaned very loudly, and blood was issuing from the hole in its snout through which passed the ring to which the chain was secured. It was stated that the defendants had only been in town eight or ten days, and that a companion who had come here with them had been killed from the kick of a horse received while performing with the bear in the street. Mr. Barker said that this conduct would not be permitted here. The defendants said they came to England thinking that it was a free country, and that they could do as they liked. They would leave the country at once. Mr. Barker, in discharging them, said if they had been charged with cruelty they would have been severely punished.

A NEW FEATURE OF PAWNBROKING.—At Greenwich, on Tuesday, Mary Thorp, a domestic servant to M. Domeier, of La Bagatelle House, Blackheath, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing a large quantity of articles, and also misappropriating money intrusted to her to pay tradesmen's bills. Mr. Perrin, solicitor, attended to prosecute. The prosecutor is a Prussian merchant, carrying on business in Basinghall-street, City; and, with two of his partners, resided at Blackheath. The prisoner had been a long time in her situation as housekeeper, and a wholesale system of pledging appeared to have been adopted by her, no less than seventy-three such pledges having been made by her. A peculiar feature in receiving these pledges was, that the two pawnbrokers with whom they were made retained the duplicates in their possession, at, it was said, the prisoner's request. In one case in which money had been given to her to pay a tradesman's bill, she had placed a stamp upon it and induced a youth to sign the tradesman's name as receiving the money; and, in another case, four Scotch bank-notes (£1 each) had been handed to her; but neither had the account been settled nor had the notes been traced. The prisoner pleaded guilty; and, a summary conviction only being asked for, Mr. Maude said it was the first time he had found it a practice among pawnbrokers to retain for the convenience of customers the duplicates of articles pledged with them, which, in his opinion, were left as though the articles had been sold outright, with no intention to redeem the property. He should order the whole of the articles so pledged to be given up to the prosecutor without payment of any portion of the money advanced upon them. The prisoner was then sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, in Maidstone Gaol.

THE ABERGEL DISASTER.—Two actions arising out of the accident to the Irish mail-train at Abergel in August last were tried on Monday. At the Liverpool Assizes a Post Office travelling-clerk named Silk sued the London and North-Western Company for damages. He was sorting letters at the time of the accident, and was thrown with great violence on the floor of the van, but managed to get the mails out of the van before the flames reached it. His salary is £240, with 5s. a journey trip-money, and in all probability his salary would have gone on increasing up to £400 a year, with 1s. trip-money. Having been twenty-one years in the service of the Post Office he is now entitled to £80 a year. He had been in two previous collisions, and had been slightly compensated by the railway company. The medical evidence went to show that, though he might partially recover, he could never resume his former duties. The jury gave him £1000 damages. At Kingston the widow of a footman in the service of Lord and Lady Farnham sued the company for damages, and by consent it was arranged that a claim made by the young man's mother should be inquired into at the same time. The claim of the mother was founded upon the fact that the deceased had been in the habit of contributing towards her support. His earnings were about £60 a year, and at the time of his death he had more than £100 in a savings bank. The jury gave £50 to the widow and £150 to the mother.

MRS. BORRODALE AGAIN IN TROUBLE.—An extraordinary action, in which Mrs. Borrodale, of Madame Rachel celebrity, figured as defendant, has been tried at the Kingston Assizes. The plaintiff was Miss Sarah Sutton, a lady who described herself as a literary and monetary agent and an accountant; and she sought to recover the sum of £160 18s. for services alleged to have been rendered by her to Mrs. Borrodale during the prosecution of Madame Rachel. The evidence was of a very singular character, and some of the items in the plaintiff's account were drawn up quite in legal form. Miss Sutton was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Sergeant Parry. It appeared that her acquaintance with Mrs. Borrodale commenced in Whitecross-street, and that, although her professional vocations are as above described, she kept no books. The defendant denied having employed her as an agent. Ultimately the jury, after nearly two hours' consultation, found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £5.

REAL ESTATE INTESTACY.—Mr. Locke King's bill occupies only a single page. It provides that, when a person beneficially entitled to real estate shall die intestate as to such real estate, it shall vest in his executor or administrator; and the same, or the proceeds of the sale thereof (which sale he is hereby empowered to make), shall be distributed in the same manner as if it had been held for a term of years only; and such real estate is to be included in the grant of probate or administration of the goods and chattels of the deceased. The bill further provides that the executor or administrator may, at the request of the persons entitled, partition the estate among them; and that the Court of Chancery, or any Judge thereof, is empowered to make orders and decrees for the more effectually carrying into effect the provisions of the bill upon the summary application of the executor or administrator, or of any of the parties entitled.

EXTENSIVE FRAUD ON A PUBLIC COMPANY.—A reward of £200 has been offered for the apprehension of a bookkeeper in a company in the City of long standing, who has, it is believed, committed

frauds on the company to the extent of £50,000. According to the reports which have been furnished to us, the individual wanted had a salary of £180 a year, and lately informed some of his business friends that he had married a ward in Chancery, whose wealth was so great that he did not exactly know the amount of it. He has for some time been living in grand style, and had a mansion built near Richmond at a cost of £12,500. He advanced the builder £10,000 whilst the building was in progress, and when it was completed there was a balance of over £2000 left due. He was very particular about the ornamentation of the stables, where he kept several saddle horses. He bought the freehold of some land near the house which he wanted for pleasure grounds for £300 an acre, and he had iron railings put round a meadow at a cost of £1500. The house was beautifully furnished, and the owner used to give grand dinner parties. Some of his guests knew the amount of his salary, but he told them that he was one of the largest shareholders in the company, and that he merely remained in the inferior position he occupied in order to see that he was not robbed. So matters went on until a few days ago when a Government inspector came to the office and went through the books. It was then discovered that an extensive system of forgery and robbery had been carried on, and that the seal of the company had been fraudulently attached to documents and money raised upon them. The bookkeeper is known to have had £500 with him when he absconded.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26.

BANKRUPT.—H. JESSOPP, Brixton, boarding and lodging house keeper.—R. JONES, Grocer, with draper.—E. LEIGH, Islington, bookseller.—W. D. LEATHER, Westminster money servicer.—J. S. SMITH, Strand, warehouseman.—H. L. HANKS, Plumstead, brazier.—W. P. T. MCKINNS, Bexley, piggdealer.—J. P. ROBBINS, Chancery-lane, licensed victualler.—E. P. BERTHON, Uxbridge, iron manufacturer.—G. and W. B. NORMAN, Brixton, builders.—S. TRI-PAS, Cromwell-terrace-mews, Regent's Park, grocer.—J. L. PARKER, Brixton, bookseller.—W. P. PARKER, Lambeth, baker.—J. MARCHANT, Finsbury.—H. G. WEEKLEY, Cambridge, commission agent.—M. BASHAM, King's-cross, licensed victualler.—G. F. PAKKE, Luton, licensed victualler.—E. DAVIES, Shore-ditch, cowkeeper.—J. READING, Canning Town, cooper.—D. BARTLETT, Isle of Wight, ironmonger.—T. TURNER, London, bookseller.—J. B. WACLOUT, Leighton Buzzard, retired Dissenting minister.—J. COX, Peter's-hill, carman.—J. EDWARDS, Portsea, Navy agent.—H. BROWN, Runcorn, farmer.—R. DORLING, Lambeth-street, coachman.—J. GRAFT, Mile-end-road, baker.—J. LEARY, Clerkenwell, grocer.—T. HARRAN, Kentish Town.—R. T. W. HOUTON, Islington, coal merchant.—G. ROGERS, King's-cross, fishmonger.—W. O. LITTLEFORD, Clerkenwell, jeweller.—H. J. FILE, Kentish Town.—J. M. MILLER, Finsbury, miller.—J. WOODATE, Lambeth, iron-founder, solicitor.—J. WILSON, Morden, coal merchant.—H. ADAMS, Kew.—J. B. WALCOT, Leighton Buzzard, retired Dissenting minister.—G. COX, Peter's-hill, carman.—J. EDWARDS, Portsea, Navy agent.—H. BROWN, Runcorn, farmer.—R. DORLING, Lambeth-street, coachman.—J. GRAFT, Mile-end-road, baker.—J. LEARY, Clerkenwell, grocer.—T. HARRAN, Kentish Town.—R. T. W. HOUTON, Islington, coal merchant.—G. ROGERS, King's-cross, fishmonger.—W. O. LITTLEFORD, Clerkenwell, jeweller.—H. J. FILE, Kentish Town.—J. M. MILLER, Finsbury, miller.—J. WOODATE, Lambeth, iron-founder, solicitor.—J. WILSON, Morden, coal merchant.—H. ADAMS, Kew.—J. B. 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